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ASSESSMENTS OF BELGRADE PARLEY GENERALLY POSITIVE

LD131313Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 10 Mar 78 p 4 LD

[Report by PRAVDA special correspondents V. Zhuravskiy and B. Nikolayev: "On the Path Initiated in Helsinki"]

[Text] Belgrade, 9 March--The Belgrade meeting of representatives of the states which participated in the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe is at an end. The final document has been adopted. The delegation heads continued to deliver their final speeches today.

Defining the aims of the Belgrade meeting, Comrade L.I. Brezhnev said: "We would like it to be, as it was conceived, a continuation and development of the spirit of Helsinki and yet another link in the development of the detente process. Can this be achieved? It can, if it is prepared for and conducted as an act of cooperation and not of strife. Anybody who tried to point it in a different direction would be assuming a great responsibility."

The meeting assumed the powers which were defined two and a half years ago by the state and government heads in the Finnish capital. The foreign ministers' representatives implemented an in-depth exchange of opinions on the implementation of the provisions of the final act, the improvement of countries' mutual relations, the strengthening of security and development of cooperation in Europe and the development of the detente process in the future. The Soviet Union and the other socialist countries gave the meeting participants details about their governments' positions on the question of the fulfillment of the decisions adopted in Helsinki. They made concrete proposals aimed at deepening the detente process, limiting arms and broadening cooperation in economic, scientific and technical, cultural and other spheres.

The chief result of the Belgrade forum is that it demonstrated the European people's determination to continue along the path initiated in Helsinki where, as is generally acknowledged, the foundation was laid for a new stage in detente and in the strengthening of the principles of peaceful coexistence and cooperation among states with different social systems.

In Belgrade everybody stressed the historic importance of the Helsinki accords and the political significance of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. It imparted fresh impetus to the implementation of the provisions of the final act and confirmed the futility of any attempts to divert the multifaceted positive process of all-European development from the main track.

The businesslike atmosphere at the meeting was complemented by the constructive approach to the discussion of fundamental European problems on the part of the delegations of the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries. The states consistently implementing the Leninist foreign policy were the true champions of the spirit of Helsinki. Their vigorous actions, supported by the peace-loving forces of the planet, have been of decisive assistance in recent years to the achievement of important positive shifts in the normalization of the international atmosphere.

It was the socialist countries which submitted serious, realistic proposals for examination by the Belgrade forum aimed at the further materialization of detente and the strengthening of mutual understanding and friendship among peoples. [paragraph continues]

They include above all the Soviet action platform aimed at consolidating military detente in Europe and the proposals on broadening all-European cooperation in the sphere of environmental conservation, transportation and energy. A Soviet-Polish proposal was put forward on the legislative enshrinement of the 10 principles of the final act. All these ideas, initiatives and proposals express the hopes and aspirations of the European public, which regard them as the correct course of the detente policy.

The Belgrade meeting was in progress at the time of the celebration of the 60th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution. The report "Great October and the Progress of Mankind," delivered at the Kremlin ceremony by Comrade L.I. Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and the CPSU Central Committee, USSR Supreme Soviet and USSR Council of Ministers appeal "To the Peoples, Parliaments and Governments of all Countries of the World" gave new life to the meeting. These important documents were circulated among the participants. At the Belgrade forum and at unofficial meetings in the Sava Palace of Congresses there were many words of thanks to our socialist state which, when it came into being 60 years ago, promulgated the decree on peace as its first law. Special attention was drawn to the fact that the new USSR Constitution contained a clear-cut formulation of the peace-loving aims of Soviet foreign policy and reflected all 19 principles of relations among states proclaimed in the final act of the all-European conference.

At all stages of the Belgrade meeting the initiatives of the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries met with a broad response in the Sava Palace and formed the basis of a useful dialog.

Diplomats and commentators note that the representatives of neutral and some Western countries made a positive contribution to the work. The envoys of all the participating states expressed their gratitude to Yugoslavia and to its people and government for their warm hospitality and the splendid conditions created for fruitful work.

The positive efforts in Belgrade frequently fell foul of attempts by the delegations from the United States and a number of its NATO partners to revise the spirit and letter of the final act and alter the nature and content of the process initiated by the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. The strategists of the policy of tension intended to transform the meeting into an ideological battlefield.

The American representative attempted to unleash a "psychological war." The purpose of the operation was, on the one hand, to conceal the unsavory picture of elementary human rights violations in the Western countries and, on the other hand, to distract the European public's attention from the buildup of the North Atlantic bloc's military arsenal and the plans of certain militarist circles to draw the European states into a new and even more dangerous "neutron stage" of the arms race. But this operation failed.

On the eve of the meeting we asked some of the participants to assess the work done.

Envoy M. Pesic, head of the Yugoslav delegation, said that the Belgrade forum ended constructively and in a positive atmosphere.

"It demonstrated with utmost clarity, and this is the vital thing," Pesic stressed, "that the Helsinki final act is its long-term basis and content. The final document we have adopted, although brief, insures the continuation of the process started by the conference on security and cooperation and insures the continuity of the Helsinki cause.
[paragraph continues]

Belgrade has confirmed the vital nature of this process and has made a contribution to its development."

"Thanks to the efforts of the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries which advanced a comprehensive, realistic program of political detente to be supplemented by military detente," envoy E. Krabach, head of the GDR delegation, told us, "the spirit and letter of Helsinki have reigned in Belgrade. The unseemly intrigues of the representatives of the United States and some of its NATO allies, clearly aimed at obtaining the right to interfere in other countries' internal affairs, slowed the meeting. But they were defeated in the end. The course toward peaceful coexistence among states with different social systems and friendship and cooperation among people prevailed."

Envoy L. Pan de Soraluz, leader of the Spanish delegation, told us that Spaniards are expressing great satisfaction with the decision to hold the next meeting of representatives of participating countries in Madrid in 1980. In his view the Belgrade meeting ended on a positive note. It confirmed that detente is a truly living process which is developing daily.

"We believe in the effectiveness of the Helsinki accords," envoy Yu.M. Vorontsov, head of the Soviet delegation, told your PRAVDA correspondents. "We note with satisfaction that at the Belgrade meeting the final act was defended against all attempts to revise it. It emerged from Belgrade stronger, not weaker, and more strongly rooted in the European political soil. Belgrade saw the frustration of attempts to lead the process begun in Helsinki into a dangerous blind alley of interference in states' internal affairs. At the same time there was a reaffirmation of loyalty to the Helsinki accords and of readiness to continue the course of detente and cooperation and of strengthening security and limiting the arms race."

The Helsinki accords are a realistic program for safeguarding Europe's peaceful future. Relaxation of international tension is the command of the times. As for the Soviet Union and the other socialists countries, they are implementing consistently, step by step, all the principles of the final act. It is to be hoped that state responsibility and political reason will prevail over the narrow selfish interests of certain Western states and that they will at last operate in the spirit of strengthening mutual understanding and trust.

PRAVDA PUBLISHES FINAL DOCUMENT OF BELGRADE CSCE MEETING

Moscow PRAVDA in Russian on 11 March, page 4, publishes the apparent text of the final document of the Belgrade meeting of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. The PRAVDA version has been compared with the "full text" as transmitted by Belgrade TANJUG English, which was published in the CSCE/MBFR/DISARMAMENT section of the 9 March Eastern Europe DAILY REPORT, page BB1, and found to be substantively identical.

BULGARIAN DELEGATE NOTES LACK OF PROGRESS AT VIENNA

LD091720Y Moscow TASS in English 1700 GMT 9 Mar 78 LD

["Vienna: A Constructive Approach Is Needed"]

[Text] Vienna, March 9 TASS--TASS correspondent Igor Maslov writes:

The 163rd meeting of the participants in the talks on the mutual reduction of armed forces and armaments in central Europe was held in Vienna's Hofburg Palace today. It was addressed by the head of the Bulgarian delegation Todor Dichev.

At the beginning of the session, the head of the Dutch delegation Ambassador V. de Vos van Steinvaik, who presided over the meeting, expressed deep condolences to the family of the head of the Canadian delegation, Ambassador Gordon Cox, who tragically died yesterday.

The head of the Bulgarian delegation T. Dichev spoke with the TASS correspondent and commented on today's meeting.

The first half of the 14th round of the talks has passed, he said, but we are yet to see any tangible results on the road to solving the tasks facing the participants in the Vienna dialogue.

It is obvious that a reduction of armed forces and armaments in central Europe would facilitate a further lessening of the danger of nuclear war.

Measures of military detente in central Europe could then become broader, permanent and coordinated. They could be adopted either on a bilateral or multilateral basis. This would facilitate a still more reliable consolidation of international security and mankind's peaceful future.

I would like to refer to the report made by the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet L. I. Brezhnev on November 2, 1977 in which he clearly stated that the Soviet Union shows effective concern for its defence, but is not pressing and will not press for military superiority over the other side. We do not want to violate the approximate equilibrium of armed forces, that now exists, for instance, between the East and the West in central Europe, or between the USSR and the United States, Brezhnev said. But in return we demand that nobody else would seek to disrupt it in its favour.

As is known, T. Dichev stressed, the Soviet Union and other socialist countries have made in Vienna quite a number of substantial compromise proposals directed at the attainment of agreement with the Western participants. In this they proceed from the principle of undiminished security of the sides and inadmissibility of unilateral military advantages.

If the Western delegations are really interested in preserving an approximate equality after the reduction of armed forces and armaments, after a substantial reduction of military potentials, they should adopt the only just principle of reduction by equal percentage which does not give any side any unilateral advantages.

[Moscow PRAVDA in Russian for 10 March on page 5 publishes a Melnikov dispatch that renders above paragraph as follows: "T. Dichev noted once again that if the Western delegations are really interested in preserving the approximate equality of forces after a reduction which is not to anybody's detriment has been carried out, they should not talk about an abstract and tendentiously interpreted principle of parity. The only real just alternative here can be the adoption of the principle of equal-percentage reductions."]

In conclusion the head of the Bulgarian delegation stressed: Socialist countries expect that in the final account the constructive and realistic approach will take the upper hand in the West's position. This would open up the road to attaining progress at the Vienna talks.

SOVIET INITIATIVE TO BAN NEUTRON BOMB WOULD PROMOTE PEACE

LD131748Y Moscow TASS in English 1630 GMT 13 Mar 78 LD

["The Only Possible and Sensible Solution"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, March 13, TASS--TASS commentator Ivan Ablamov writes: To judge by reports coming in from abroad, the TASS statement on neutron weapons met, on the whole, with a positive response from the world public which is greatly concerned by the plans for the manufacture of a new type of weapons of mass destruction. And this is hardly surprising: It is clear to the peoples that implementation of such plans would mean opening of a new direction in the arms race and would increase the risks of a nuclear war.

In this connection one cannot but note the position adopted by certain Western press organs. They do not conceal that they would like to use the question of manufacture of the neutron bomb for putting pressure on the Soviet Union. Thus the Washington POST comes up with an "idea" of using the disputable [as received] neutron bomb as a bargaining counter in order to gain concession from the Soviet Union. The newspaper suggest that consent not to manufacture the new weapon should be traded for measures to reduce the offensive potential of Warsaw treaty troops and commitments not to deploy certain types of Soviet missiles.

Meantime it must be absolutely clear to all that the West's arming with the neutron bomb will create an imbalance in respect of the present military potential of the Warsaw Pact (in the Soviet Union's opinion this potential must be reduced by the same margin as NATO's military potential) and leads to a new spiral in the arms race.

The Soviet Union suggests in no indefinite terms that the countries should renounce on a reciprocal basis the manufacture of neutron weapons and not to tie in a final decision of this question with other, unrelated, issues. The Soviet initiative is of great significance for world peace and security. Indeed, equipment of the NATO and Warsaw Pact armies with neutron weapons would contradict the policy of deepening the relaxation of political tension, not to mention relaxation of military tension, and lead up to a lowering of the "nuclear threshold", thus making it easier for those irresponsible elements in the West who place their own selfish interests above those of world peace to provoke a disastrous conflict. In these conditions mutual refusal by all states to manufacture neutron weapons appears to be the only possible and sensible solution.

HAIG TOUR AIMS AT INCREASE IN EUROPEAN NATO ARMS SPENDING

LD111912Y Moscow TASS in English 1850 GMT 11 Mar 78 LD

["A. Haig's Anti-Soviet Marathon Tour"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, March 11, TASS--IZVESTIYA carries today an article which says: American General A. Haig, supreme allied commander in Europe and well-known "war hawk", visited recently West Berlin. He was already seen lately in the capitals of a number of NATO countries. During his visits and talks the general is never tired of urging a further build-up of NATO's military might while accompanying his calls with anti-Soviet outbursts and unceremonious interference in the affairs of West European states.

The NATO supreme commander is trying to frighten his listeners with the Soviet Union's "aggressiveness", its alleged "alarming expansion", and so on and so forth. At the same time General Haig gives advice to the West Europeans. He would not like communists, as you see, to be included in an Italian Government. He does not like the changes that have taken place in Portugal after the overthrow of the fascist regime. He would like to tie France more tightly to the military organisation of the North Atlantic bloc.

His speech in West Berlin was dominated again by the anti-Soviet theme. One might gather from the speech he made before members of the American Chamber of Commerce and three Western commandants of the city that the Soviet Armed Forces are nearly preparing for an invasion of Western Europe. Therefore, he said, the West Europeans should draw conclusions for themselves and step up their war preparations because the time is long gone when they in Europe could watch the USA facing alone global crises.

Then what conclusion is to be drawn from the provocative statements of A. Haig and other high-ranking NATO leaders, speeches and statements abounding in inventions about the mythical "Soviet menace" and bellicose calls? There can be only one conclusion, namely to get the United States' NATO allies to allocate still more funds for the arms race. The Pentagon's plans include deployment of neutron weapons in Western Europe, equipment of the NATO armed forces with cruise missiles, the AWACS reconnaissance system, up-to-date planes and other costly arms. It is in the implementation of these plans that the Pentagon and all the American military-industrial complex intend to get their West European partners to cooperate still more actively. It is these plans that will be imposed on the West Europeans in Washington during the spring session of the NATO Council on May 30-31.

Before the session A. Haig, J. Luns and other officials of the Pentagon and the North Atlantic bloc, are trying hard on assignment from the military industrial complex, to condition public opinion and politicians. They travel all over Western Europe. Their zeal sometimes carries them to West Berlin although they have nothing to do in that city. A. Haig's instigating speeches are at variance with the commitments assumed by the USA, Britain and France under the four-power agreement of September 3, 1971, when they stated that they would strive to ease tension and to prevent complications in West Berlin. Did the authorities of the three Western powers think about this when they let General Haig into the city?

General Haig's present marathon tour of Western Europe is fresh evidence of the fact that there are still no few reactionary politicians and military leaders in the West who dream of returning to the cold war times and who hamper in every way the positive processes now taking place in the world and in the European Continent. The provocative manoeuvres of General Haig and those whose policy he represents are designed to thwart the process of relaxation of international tensions. They will not be able to intimidate the Soviet Union in this way, but they can further whip up the arms race. Such activities by A. Haig and some other NATO leaders contradict the interests of the peoples and represent a danger to their future.

NATO COUNCIL SESSION WILL NOT DISCUSS NEUTRON BOMB

LD081514Y Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1337 GMT 8 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Washington--The forthcoming NATO Council session at the level of heads of state and government of the North Atlantic bloc member-countries will be devoted to questions of increasing the strength of NATO armed forces, says the American press, quoting official U.S. Government spokesmen. As previously reported, the session is to be held in Washington on 30-31 May. Its agenda, the press points out, will include four questions: short-term and long-term measures to increase NATO's military potential, including the deployment of military equipment in strategically important areas, policy in the field of East-West relations and arms procurement. The Western European NATO partners are striving for an increase in U.S. military equipment purchases from them.

The press points out that the question of the neutron bomb will not be on the session's agenda, since Washington intends to make a unilateral decision on its production before the middle of May. This is due to the failure of U.S. attempts to obtain the agreement of its allies for a joint approach to the question of deploying this form of nuclear weapon.

These attempts have been met by mass protests from the Western European public against the neutron bomb.

UN DISARMAMENT COMMITTEE RESUMES WORK AMID DISAGREEMENT

LD130850Y Moscow TASS in English 0820 GMT 13 Mar 78 LD

[Text] New York, March 13, TASS--TASS correspondent Vladimir Matyash reports: The U.N. special committee for holding a world disarmament conference is resuming its work in New York today. Its session is being attended by representatives of 40 committee member-states, including a number of socialist countries. The idea of convocation of a world disarmament conference was put forward by the Soviet Union and other peace-loving states making every effort for curbing the arms race, for achieving disarmament and successfully developing the process of international detente. The world conference could, in the opinion of these countries, outline concrete and effective measures in these fields.

The working document of the United Nations organization on this issue notes that among the Western powers--France and Britain positively treat the idea of convocation of a world disarmament conference. A negative stand on this issue, as is seen from the document, is taken by the USA and the PRC. It is noted in the U.N. circles that this stand is evidence of the reluctance of these powers to support the efforts of the international community directed at resolving the exceptionally important problem of curbing the arms race and of disarmament within the framework of a world conference.

Such a stand is in sharp contrast with the opinion of an overwhelming majority of the member-countries of the international community. It is noted in this connection that for an effective settlement of the disarmament problems it is necessary to hold a maximum broad and prestigious international forum that would have the necessary machinery for taking practical and effective measures. It is widely believed that the convocation of a world disarmament conference would meet these requirements. It is noteworthy that all the sessions of the U.N. General Assembly starting from 1971 have declared for the convocation of a world conference. The idea has received active support also at various forums of non-aligned countries.

UN DOCUMENT OUTLINES SOCIALIST STAND ON WORLD ECONOMY

LD1021552Y Moscow TASS in English 1035 GMT 10 Mar 78 LD

[Text] New York, March 10, TASS--The main directions of present-day international economic relations should be determined, first of all, by the interests of maintaining international peace and security, and ensuring the social and economic progress of the peoples that have cast off the yoke of colonial oppression. Such is the principled position of the socialist countries they set forth in the United Nations in connection with the establishment of the economic committee of the U.N. General Assembly. The decision to set up this committee was taken at the latest General Assembly session.

It is stressed in the document presented in this connection by the delegations of Belorussia, Bulgaria, Hungary, the GDR, Mongolia, Poland, the USSR, the Ukraine and Czechoslovakia, that the enormously complex problems involved in the establishment of a new international economic order, based on equality and mutual benefit, cannot be discussed separately from general political factors which exercise a decisive influence on international relations including economic relations. Meantime, the socialist countries stress, colonialism, neo-colonialism, racial discrimination, apartheid, foreign aggression and occupation or foreign dominance are the main obstacles to the complete liberation and progress of the developing countries.

It is the firm belief of the socialist countries that the problem of establishing a new international economic order cannot and must not be discussed separately from such basic factors of present-day world development as relaxation of international tension and disarmament. The process of relaxation of international tension, while ensuring conditions for peace, stimulates economic growth and trade between all countries. The easing of tension and restriction of the arms race open the way to reducing the burden of military expenditure and to the economic growth of all countries, including the developing ones.

The delegations of the socialist countries believe that one of the main tasks of the new committee is to prepare a special General Assembly session on economic matters, which is to be held in 1980 and which is expected to make its contribution to the process of restructuring of international economic relations on a democratic, just, equal and mutually-beneficial basis.

UNCTAD SESSION VIEWS GROWING DEBT OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

LD1101654Y Moscow TASS in English 1538 GMT 10 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Geneva, March 10 TASS--TASS correspondent Yuriy Lopatin reports: The current special session of the Council of Trade and Development of the UNCTAD (U.N. Conference on Trade and Development), now meeting in the Palace of Nations here, is discussing a problem of great importance for the developing countries, that of their foreign debts and ways of solving it. The council is meeting, for the first time, at ministerial level.

Gamani Corea, UNCTAD secretary general, said that this is a very complex problem which has become a stumbling block in the way of the economic growth of these countries and has led up to the formation of an enormous balance of payments deficit. He reported that the foreign debt of the developing countries totalled approximately 250 billion dollars at the end of last year, and it is growing fast.

A spokesman of the developing countries in the UNCTAD said that growing foreign debts seriously affect their economies and that this was further aggravated by the fact that they have to pay interest to capitalist countries in convertible currency.

Aleksey Manzhulo, deputy minister of foreign trade of the USSR, made a statement of this item on behalf of the group of socialist countries. He said that the present critical monetary and financial situation in the developing countries has arisen fully under the influence of the world capitalist economy. The socialist countries, he said, have nothing to do with the colonialist plunder of Asian, African and Latin American countries and colonialist exploitation of their peoples and hence with the disastrous consequences of the spontaneous functioning of the world capitalist economy. Socialist countries link a solution of the problem of foreign debts of the developing countries with the question of compensation of the damage caused to their economies by this, and with the self-seeking activities of private monopoly capital. The socialist countries, the statement says, do not seek concessions in the developing countries or control over their natural resources. They only want sincerely to give them whatever assistance they can in their independent economic development.

SOVIET UN REPRESENTATIVE CONDEMNS SALISBURY SETTLEMENT

LD111253Y Moscow TASS in English 1439 GMT 11 Mar 78 LD

[Text] New York, March 11, TASS--TASS correspondent Vladimir Matyash reports: The U.N. Security Council continued examining the question of the situation in Rhodesia. Representatives of independent African states noted in their speeches that the manoeuvres of the racialist Smith regime supported by the forces of international imperialism and neo-colonialism have resulted in a sharp deterioration of the situation in Rhodesia, have seriously aggravated the already tense situation in the south of the African Continent.

Nigerian Federal Commissioner for External Affairs Joseph Garba stressed that the Security Council must not only reject the so-called "internal settlement" in Rhodesia, but also condemn it. We also condemn, he said, "the dangerous manoeuvre of some Western countries running counter to the genuine interests and aspirations of the African peoples." Garba said that Nigeria fully supports the struggle of the Zimbabwe people for independence under the leadership of the Patriotic Front. He also expressed gratitude to the socialist countries, to all the progressive forces of the world invariably supporting the struggle of the African peoples for national liberation.

USSR Permanent Representative to the United Nations Organization Oleg Troyanovskiy said that the struggle of the Zimbabwe people for self-determination and independence is no regional problem, but a task of great international significance. Only the speediest elimination of the racialist Smith and Vorster regimes, only an ultimate victory of the patriotic forces of the African majority, he noted, may ensure peace and justice in the south of Africa. By creating a puppet "government" in Rhodesia, O. Troyanovskiy said, the Salisbury clique is thus trying to remove the Patriotic Front from deciding its country's destinies, to give a semblance of lawfulness to the racialist regime. Meanwhile, the Zimbabwe Patriotic Front enjoys wide support among the world community as the sole legitimate representative of that country's people.

The Soviet Union, Oleg Troyanovskiy stressed, resolutely rejects the racialist, neo-colonialist deal in Salisbury.

CARTER ATTEMPT TO DIVIDE ARABS CONTRASTS WITH USSR STAND

LD131530Y Moscow TASS in English 1513 GMT 13 Mar 78 LD

["Dubious Aims of U.S. Policy"--TASS headline]

[Text] Washington, March 13 TASS--Speaking on Middle East problems, President J. Carter dwelt on the difficulties encountered by M. Begin and A. as-Sadat during separate talks held with the direct participation of the USA. He said that the situation has now deteriorated to some extent and the talks in the military and political committees have been interrupted. There were disagreements over the question of preserving Israeli airfields and settlements in the Sinai, time limits for withdrawal of Israeli troops from the Sinai Peninsula and Israel's demand for Egypt not to station its troops on the Sinai Peninsula to the east of the Mitla and Jidi passes. President Carter reiterated his former statement that the U.S. Government is against the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

Trying to justify the American administration's decision to supply more combat planes to Israel, Egypt and Saudi Arabia, he made it clear that this is a political rather than military decision. He motivated the decision to supply planes to Egypt by the need for encouraging As-Sadat in effecting Egypt's turn away from cooperation with the Soviet Union, "an exceedingly important and favourable" one for the USA. Such an interpretation by the President shows once more that Washington's policy is aimed at dividing the Arab countries and isolating them from their natural allies, in contrast to the policy of the USSR which is aimed at achieving an overall political settlement in the Middle East.

In his statement the President made no mention of the Geneva peace conference. In this connection observers ask: Can one put trust in accords reached with the USA? Indeed, the joint Soviet-American statement on the Middle East of October 1, 1977 clearly pointed to the need for resuming the Geneva peace conference.

U.S. WARPLANES DEAL PROMOTES REACTIONARY MIDEAST ALLIANCE

LD131625Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 11 Mar 78 p 5 LD

[Article by political observer Yuriy Zhukov: "Deal Which Says a Lot"]

[Text] Let us remember this date: 14 February 1978. U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, initiating a profound political turn, made a sensational statement on the U.S. administration's decision to sell aircraft worth $4.8 billion to three Near East states "to help insure our (that is, U.S.--Yu. Zh.) national security."

Israel is to receive 15 F-15 fighter-bombers--in addition to the 25 already sold to it--and 75 F-16 fighters (115 aircraft in all); Saudi Arabia is to get 60 F-15 fighter-bombers, and Egypt 50 F-5 fighters.

This "package deal," as the State Department has officially called it, must be approved by the Congress but, as UPI specifies, "the sale of these aricraft...will take place automatically unless the Congress opposes it within 30 days of (President) Carter's notification."

As was only to be expected, the Israeli Government lodged an immediate protest against the sale of warplanes to Saudi Arabia and Egypt--Prime Minister Begin immediately sent a protest to U.S. President Carter, and his Defense Minister, Weizman, flew to Washington to secure a ban on this sale and, at the same time, an increase in military deliveries to Israel.

The Zionist lobby in Washington immediately launched a fierce campaign for the abrogation of the administration's decision. But the U.S. President, speaking in Cranston [R.I.], explained that this time Israel will have to reconcile itself to the new situation: The United States has found other allies and friends in that region....

As for Saudi Arabia, which accounts for one-fourth of oil deliveries to the United States, its feudal rulers, who receive, in exchange for this oil fabulous revenue from the bounties of Aramco--the consortium of four U.S. companies which extracts the oil--established friendly relations with Washington long ago. This friendship was and is sealed by fear of the growth of progressive attitudes in neighboring Arab states, and Carter has called Saudi Arabia "one of our closest allies and loyal friends."

As for As-Sadat, who has repudiated the progressive course of the late President an-Nasir, broken off cooperation with the socialist countries, split the united front of Arab states which were the victims of Israeli aggression and is now seeking a separate agreement with Israel, he too has now ended up in the category of the United States' "loyal friends."

In fact, Washington still has an arrogant and scornful attitude toward this "reliable friend and ally," as Carter has called him. Israel still remains the United States' true "loyal friend and ally" in the Near East.

This was eloquently confirmed by As-Sadat's visit to the United States in early February. As long ago as April 1977 he had asked the United States to sell him combat aircraft, but at that time, as the New York TIMES wrote 20 February, "this request was set aside as 'premature.'" Now As-Sadat has repeated his request. He gave an assurance here, as the Paris newspaper L'AURORE wrote 15 February, that he will "never use the U.S. aircraft against Israel," and declared that he needs them to defend...the southern borders.

In this connection, As-Sadat, as REUTER reported, declared that he is counting on receiving the same arms as Israel, and not "tenth-rate" F-5 aircraft, which "will not suit him." But he still had to accept with gratitude precisely these "tenth-rate" aircraft.

Saudi Arabia is another matter. It will receive much more powerful, high-speed F-15 aircraft--the best in the West. They were only recently put into production, and even the NATO air forces do not yet possess them in the planned numbers. It is an incredibly complex and expensive machine. Each aircraft costs $18.1 million!

But Saudi Arabia, as Washington emphasizes, is in no way a potential enemy of Israel and does not trouble it.

Incidentally, the U.S. press is now blurting out very curious details of the preparations to conclude this aviation deal. This, for example, is what the New York TIMES has written in this connection:

It turns out that "(President) Ford had committed the United States to grant the Saudis an unstated number of 'aircraft of their choice,' as one government official says. The Saudis studied and tested various types of aircraft and settled on the costly and complex F-15 fighter."

The endless delays in its fulfillment cause serious discontent among the "oil sheikhs." As UPI reported 1 March, at a recent session of the Saudi Arabian supreme oil council it was decided to make "future oil deliveries for the United States' strategic stocks dependent on the U.S. Congress' approval of the sale of U.S. F-15 fighter-bombers to Riyadh..."

And so, the U.S. administration has now initiated a profound political turn--away from its one-sided orientation toward supporting Israel, until now its only ally in the Near East, and toward reliance on a group of states with reactionary regimes. It is a reliance based primarily on the same old Israel, but additionally on Saudi Arabia and, if successful, on certain other states.

Pro-Israeli senators and congressmen are also beginning to realine themselves. For example, influential House member Jonathan Bingham--to use the New York TIMES' expression, "an open supporter of Israel and critic of previous arms deals with the Arabs"--has already declared that he doubts that the House will veto the proposed sale "as everyone understands that the Saudis are of great significance, and As-Sadat is currently in good favor." He forecast that the aircraft sale will cause a "great uproar" in Congress but will not be blocked.

For its part the administration is making it understood that it is prepared to act decisive'.. As AP reported 4 March, the U.S. administration has turned down the Senate's "unofficial request" that the deal be postponed, and Secretary of State Vance, addressing a session of the House International Operations Subcommittee, warned that "the U.S. administration will withdraw its promise to sell Israel 90 military aircraft if Congress blocks the sale of aircraft to Egypt and Saudi Arabia."

Thus the implacable facts confirm once again that just one law of mercenary interests operates in the world of hard cash. An unattractive role is earmarked for Israel, Egypt and Saudi Arabia--that of running in the same harness, obeying the whip of the Washington driver.

The future will show whether this role will suit them.

PROPOSED U.S. SINAI BASE WOULD PROTECT PRO-U.S. REGIMES

LD131402Y Moscow TASS in English 1330 GMT 13 Mar 78 LD

["Aims of the Pentagon Strategists"--TASS headline]

[Text] Washington, March 13 TASS--TASS correspondent Yuriy Levchenko reports: Pursuing far-reaching military strategic plans in the Middle East and the Persian Gulf area, the militaristic circles of the United States are putting forward the idea of establishing a big naval and air force base in the Israeli-occupied Sinai Peninsula.

The construction of such a base was advocated in the newspaper Washington POST by Professor Singer.

The presence of such a base, he said, will enable the United States to ensure the strategic interests of the USA and NATO, particularly the security of oil transportation from the Arabian Peninsula to the countries of the West. The creation of a base, Singer claims, will help achieve progress at the deadlocked Egyptian-Israeli talks, as the "disputed land" in Sinai will go neither to Egypt, nor Israel, but to the United States, which will turn it into a barrier, as it were, between the two countries.

At the same time, as is seen from Singer's reasoning, the USA could use its strongpoint in Sinai to fortify the reactionary Arab regimes welcome to Washington, in the first place that of Saudi Arabia. The U.S. presence in Sinai, he writes, will in itself be an important deterrent to any internal or external threat to Saudi Arabia, which will ensure the stability of the present pro-Western regimes. There is no doubt as regards the necessity of preserving the existing regime in Saudi Arabia, considering the importance of access to the rich oil resources in that country and the clear striving of the present leadership of Riyadh for cooperation with the USA. In any future Middle East confrontation, he notes, the United States will be able to come to Saudi Arabia's aid using its bases in Sinai.

LINKAGE ADVOCATES 'BLATANTLY DISTORTING' SOVIET POLICY

LD131155Y Moscow NEDELYA in Russian No 10 Signed to Press 9 Mar 78 p 7 LD

[TASS political observer Yuriy Kornilov article: "The 'Linkage Tactic'"]

[Text] The limitation of strategic offensive armaments occupies a special place in the wide spectrum of problems connected with curbing the arms race: It is generally recognized that the solution of this problem would be of vitally great importance for consolidating detente. The consistent, constructive line to which the Soviet Union adheres at the Soviet-American talks on concluding a SALT-II agreement and the elements of flexibility and realism displayed by the American side during these talks have made it possible to make considerable headway. In his recent speech at the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium session L.I. Brezhnev stressed that the Soviet Union advocates the speediest completion of the talks on this problem. For his part U.S. President J. Carter stated on 3 March that "good progress" has been made at the SALT-II talks. Real potential exists for insuring that the present stage of the difficult and complex work of strategic arms limitation is successfully completed.

However, it is precisely this prospect which does not suit certain circles in the United States that express the aspirations of the military-industrial complex that are connected with the Pentagon and NATO and have no interest in detente. What maneuvers these circles are resorting to in order to complicate and, if possible, wreck the SALT-II talks! Now, in defiance of the facts, they are attempting to prove that detente and the curbing of the arms race are "advantageous to the Soviet Union alone." Now they are mounting a massive propaganda campaign that is out to scare Americans with "the perfidious schemes of Moscow," which is supposedly secretly preparing some kind of capability "for delivering a first nuclear strike against the United States." Since all these ravings are failing to yield the expected dividends, a new weapon designed to undermine the SALT-II talks is brought into play--the so-called "linkage tactic." The essence of this tactic is to link headway at the Soviet-American SALT-II talks with other issues, particularly the events in the Horn of Africa.

Since it is obvious that, if successful, attempts of this kind would seriously complicate the cause of detente, the initiators of these attempts do not operate in a straightforward and direct manner but hide behind all kinds of hints and provisions and even try to assert that the "linkage" in question is created not by them but by someone else. Speaking at a press conference in Washington recently, the U.S. President declared that the United States does not pursue a policy which envisages linkage of the USSR role in the Somali-Ethiopian conflict with the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks; but at the same time, he let it be known that such a "linkage" is still taking place, not on the initiative of the United States, but because of...the "actions of the Russians themselves." A few days earlier Z. Brzezinski, the U.S. President's assistant for national security, who actually coined the term "linkage" with regard to the SALT-II talks, made similar contradictory remarks. Although, as we can see, these remarks are contradictory, the opponents of the SALT-II agreement understood perfectly well which way the wind was blowing and hastened to mount fierce propaganda attacks on this agreement, accompanying them with a slanderous ballyhoo about USSR "interference" in Africa's affairs. The NATO coordinating machinery also moved into operation--the "linkage tactic" received support in certain West European NATO countries. Thus, in particular, Italy's CORRIERE DELLA SERA advocates "making the situation in the Horn of Africa a topic of negotiation between the Americans and the Soviet Union within the framework of the Soviet-American talks on reducing strategic offensive armaments."

So it is proposed not only to inter-"link" the solution of one of the fundamental international problems of our time and the conflict in the Horn of Africa, but even to sit down at the same negotiating table and discuss simultaneously both the SALT-II agreement and other issues, particularly the Somali-Ethiopian conflict. How should this--if you will pardon the expression--"initiative" be understood? Yes, the problem of reducing strategic offensive armaments is a problem of unprecedented scale, but nevertheless, even this problem has definite bounds and a precisely delineated "material foundation." At present the SALT-II talks are considering a number of important and serious issues which have arisen due to the hopes of certain U.S. circles of obtaining military superiority over the USSR. For instance, the Soviet Union is opposing the Pentagon's attempts to secure for itself the right to deploy so-called cruise missiles of the "surface-to-air" class [as published], not only on the heavy bombers which are subject to limitation, but on virtually any types of aircraft. Is this an important issue? Yes, it is. But the question arises: What does it have to do with the events in the Horn of Africa? The USSR further opposes the attempts by the American side to remove sea- and land-based cruise missiles from the restrictions and stresses the danger of the attempts to leave loopholes for the appearance of American cruise missiles on the territory of U.S. NATO allies. There can be no doubt about the importance of these questions either but, as is obvious to everyone, they have absolutely no connection whatever with the Somali-Ethiopian conflict. The complex problems of monitoring the fulfillment of the SALT-II agreement are under discussion. But these problems also have nothing to do with other international issues, including the conflict which has broken out in east Africa as a result of Somalia's territorial claims.

The inventors of the "linkage tactic" cite the fact that, they say, a "link" has arisen between the SALT-II talks and the events in the Horn of Africa as a result of the USSR's position on the Somali-Ethiopian conflict. But once again clarification is needed: Just what is it all about? [paragraph continues]

The Soviet Union's position on the events in the Horn of Africa is well known: From the start of these events--the essence of which is that Somalia's ruling circles, encouraged and incited from outside, have unleashed armed aggression against neighboring Ethiopia--the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries have resolutely condemned the aggressor, opposed the redrawing of the borders of independent African states and advocated peace talks between the two neighboring Africa countries, stressing here that the situation for such talks can be created only by restoring the status quo that existed before the start of the conflict--something which would accord with the aims and principles of the UN Charter and the OAU decisions. It is also well known that certain Western and primarily American circles, which are hypocritically attempting to claim that they want to extinguish the conflict, are actually giving political, economic and--particularly active--military support to the aggressor, threatening revolutionary Ethiopia and striving to obtain the greatest possible "freedom of action" for NATO, the African ambitions of which are no secret. There is something else which is unknown and unclear: Exactly how have those, who like to lump together different international issues, detected the "link" supposedly existing between the events in the Horn of Africa and the SALT-II talks?

No, things don't add up for the inventors of the "linkage tactic" who are attempting to introduce their invention into Washington's political practice. It is obvious to any sober-minded person that a problem of such paramount importance as strategic arms limitation should not be linked with other international issues, which are different in terms of both character and caliber, for this kind of "linkage" and "coupling" can only complicate and confuse matters. If, nevertheless, certain U.S. circles are making such attempts again and again and continuing strenuously to propound the "thesis" of the existence of such a "link," pushing this "thesis" with particular zeal in the U.S. Congress where, as is well known, there are not only supporters but also active opponents of the SALT-II agreement, then it is not difficult to determine the aim of these actions: To intensify the efforts of the enemies of detente by deliberately and blatantly distorting the essence and aims of Soviet policy, and ultimately to retard or frustrate the reaching of accords by making the SALT-II agreement the object of an acute domestic political struggle. According to the CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, Brzezinski's statement, like other such statements, is designed precisely to insure that the American Congress "adopts a tougher position toward the Russians--which would make it more difficult to ratify a new strategic arms limitation treaty." Certain circles in the United States are..."utilizing the complex situation in the Horn of Africa as grounds for postponing a strategic arms limitation agreement," France's L'HUMANITE states with complete justification.

However, those in the United States who are resorting to these maneuvers are essentially attempting to challenge not the Soviet Union but their own country and their own people, who are just as objectively interested as the Soviet people, in ending the strategic arms race. "The SALT agreement is not some kind of good-conduct reward to the Soviet Union," Paul Warnke, director of the American Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, declared recently. "It is the method by which we further our own interests." What's true is true! As far as the so-called "linkage tactic" is concerned, this tactic, which is calculated to supercharge tension, worsen American-Soviet relations and give the "green light" for a new, exceptionally dangerous spiral of the arms race, cannot bring anything for the world except an intensification of the threat of a destructive nuclear-missile war.

BRZEZINSKI LINKAGE CONTRADICTS DESIRE FOR SALT ACCORD

LD131201Y Moscow LITERATURNAVA GAZETA in Russian 8 Mar 78 p 9 LD

[Report by Soviet television and radio correspondent Yu. Soltan: "Congressman M. Harrington: New Efforts Are Needed"]

[Text] Washington--What ridiculous and absurd rumors are now being spread in the United States in connection with the events in the Horn of Africa! The selfless Soviet aid to Ethiopia--the victim of aggression--is being presented to Americans as interference by the Soviet Union in the internal affairs of African countries and a desire to establish a "center of influence" in this region. Every day, quoting "secret sources" unknown to anyone, they are citing figures--each more fantastic than the last!--for the number of Cuban soldiers allegedly fighting in Ethiopia. It is alleged that plans exist for a military invasion of other countries, although the Ethiopian Government long ago officially assured Washington that its troops would not violate the security of Somalia or any other state but would merely clear its own territory of invaders.

But it is precisely the incitement of the United States, which is now displaying hypocritical concern for peace in the Horn of Africa, which has played far from the smallest part in the development of Somali aggression against Ethiopia. Here are the facts. On 15 July last year the White House approved in principle the decision to render extensive military aid to Somalia. As early as 23 July two-thirds of the Somali Army had invaded Ethiopia. The United States was afraid to provide arms to Somalia openly, but it is with U.S. blessing that NATO arms are reaching Mogadiscio via third countries. On 11 February a special conference of representatives of the United States, Britain, France, Italy and the FRG was held in Washington and discussed the further coordination of efforts to support the aggressor. A week later a squadron of U.S. warships carrying nuclear missiles was sent to the Indian Ocean for a show of strength.

Forces seeking to complicate Soviet-U.S. relations at any price are also putting increasing pressure on the administration in the United States. They are accusing it of giving up its positions, demanding a harder line toward the USSR and calling for the breaking-off of the Soviet-U.S. strategic offensive arms limitation talks. Congressmen have also joined in this unseemly campaign.

The little word "linkage" has appeared in Washington's political usage. It is a case of "linking" the SALT-II talks with other issues which have nothing to do with it, particularly the events in the Horn of Africa. In a statement last week, Z. Brzezinski, the President's adviser on national security, threatened that "the unjustified Soviet interference in the conflict between Somalia and Ethiopia" would complicate the talks in Geneva and, if an agreement is signed, could prevents its ratification by Congress.

This political tactic blatantly contradicts the administration's frequent statements concerning its desire to conclude the talks successfully and to avoid making the solution of this important problem dependent on other issues. Evidently this is also denied by Z. Brzezinski himself, who advocates "linkage" on the one hand, and on the other is apparently against it; but at the same time this "linkage," according to him, "may become inevitable."

This tactic also contradicts the feelings of many Americans.

"I fully share President L.I. Brezhnev's opinion that it is essential to make new efforts to lend dynamism to Soviet-U.S. relations and make them more constructive," Congressman Michael Harrington stated in a talk with me. "We must avoid political intrigue in the case of problems as important as the disarmament problem. The main concern now is to achieve a breakthrough at the talks on nuclear missile arms limitation. This would not only lend fresh impetus to Soviet-U.S. relations but would also promote the creation of a favorable atmosphere for the peaceful solution of other international problems."

Yes, the Soviet people and Americans are equally interested in reaching agreement on SALT-II.

EDITORIAL SCORES TANGLE OF WASHINGTON'S LINKAGE POLICY

LD131525Y Moscow NOVOYE VREMYA in Russian No 11, 10 Mar 78 p 1 LD

[Editorial "Washington Knots"]

[Text] The Soviet Union's assessment of the state of Soviet-U.S. relations given by L.I. Brezhnev 24 February at the session of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium has attracted universal attention. This interest attests to the great hopes which the whole world pins on the development of the relations between the world's two most powerful states in a constructive spirit. Hopes that their mutual efforts will help to halt the arms race. Hopes that these efforts will give positive new impetuses to the entire process of detente--impetuses which it needs very much.

The foundation of relations between the USSR and the United States has been laid and is sufficiently durable. It includes a whole series of agreements and accords attained in recent years as a result of summit talks. It is useful to recall them now, all the more so since some people are lapsing into forgetfulness. These documents contain everything for the upward development of peaceful cooperation without hitches and zigzags.

The "Basic Principles of Mutual Relations" record the commitment to conduct affairs on the basis of a policy of peaceful coexistence, on the principles of sovereignty, equality, noninterference in internal affairs and mutual advantage. Both states agreed to display restraint in their mutual relations, abandoning attempts to obtain one-sided advantages, directly or indirectly, at the expense of the other side. The agreement's signatories undertook to make special efforts to limit strategic arms and to help curb the arms race, while viewing as their final aim the solution of the problem of general and complete disarmament.

In the agreement on the prevention of nuclear war, the USSR and the United States proclaimed the elimination of the danger of nuclear war and the use of nuclear weapons as the aim of their policy. They agreed that, in formulating their foreign policy and in their actions in the international arena, they would refrain from the threat or the use of force against the other side, against allies of the other side and against other countries under circumstances which might jeopardize international peace and security.

The Soviet Union unconditionally observes and fulfills the commitments it has adopted. For all these years it has been urging that new levels of cooperation be erected on the foundation laid. But these levels are growing slowly.

Great prospects were opened up (and they still exist) before the two countries in the trade and economic sphere. But Washington resolved to link this sphere to problems which have not the slightest connection with commercial matters: the question of Soviet citizens' emigration which--as is clear to everyone--is within the competence of the USSR and no one else. Then relations were burdened with the demagogic campaign against "violations" of human rights in the USSR and the other socialist countries. Now one more "linkage" has emerged. The U.S. State Department has suddenly established an "interdependence" between the settlement of "local conflicts, in the Horn of Africa, for instance," and the fate of the strategic offensive arms limitation talks (SALT-II).

The Russian people say of such "linkages" which Washington has been inventing in recent years: The elderberry is in the garden and uncle is in Kiev. The solution of some questions should promote and not prevent the solution of others. But artificial "linkages" can lead to the point of where both links of the chain come apart.

As for SALT-II, Washington should be no less interested than the Soviet Union in the successful completion of the talks. It should be no less interested than all peace-loving states eager to ease the burden of the arms race. After all it was in the United States, and not just anywhere, that it was calculated that the failure of SALT-II would cost the U.S. taxpayers $20 billion.

Moscow proceeds from the premise that the obstacles encumbering the path toward the intensification and expansion of cooperation can be overcome. A period has now arrived in Soviet-U.S. relations when it is essential, as L.I. Brezhnev has stressed, to make a new effort to give these relations dynamism and a more constructive nature.

Moscow is ready for this. Well, the knots must obviously be untangled primarily by those who tied them.

SOVIET SCIENTISTS SEND LETTER TO CARTER ON NEUTRON BOMB

LD131130Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0930 GMT 13 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Prominent Soviet scientists, members of academies of sciences in foreign countries, Academician Aleksandrov, president of the USSR Academy of Sciences, winners of the Nobel Prize, Academicians Basov, Kantorovich, Prokhorov, Semenov, Cherenkov, Academicians Ambartsumyan, Dubinin, Nesmeyanov, Keldysh, Skobeltsyn, Skryabin, Engelgart (Estadzhyan) and others have addressed a letter to President Carter of the United States. The letter says:

Mr President, we have learned that in the near future you will have to make a decision regarding the production in the United States of a new weapon of mass destruction of people--the neutron bomb. Since the fatal [rokovoy] decision to use atomic bombs on Japanese towns in 1945 and the instruction to start developing a nuclear bomb in 1950, probably no other decision of a U.S. President has been of such importance for formulating the future course of the United States in the field of nuclear weapons as your "yes" or "no" to the neutron bomb.

Your decision also acquires special importance since it has to be made at a time when, for the first time in the history of mankind, conditions are favorable for mutual international measures to bridle the arms race.

During the election campaign you spoke on the need to deliver mankind from a nuclear catastrophe. Your words caused many people to hope that the United States would actively participate in the efforts to create a world without nuclear bombs.

Now, you undoubtedly have at your disposal even more data necessary to evaluate all of the dangerous consequences of creating new generations of nuclear weapons. There is a real possibility for refraining from taking the step which would further complicate the solution of the already difficult task of driving the nuclear genie back into the bottle.

The neutron bomb is not a defensive weapon that can assist in containing aggression. Some irresponsible persons are already trying to use the combat characteristics of the neutron bomb to substantiate the acceptibility of a limited nuclear war. Such a philosophy is extremely dangerous to the cause of peace. One must agree with authoritative U.S. specialists who say that the very first use of nuclear weapons, even of a very low yield, may lead to a world war.

The arguments that in the present situation the neutron bomb is able to consolidate the power and security of the United States can hardly be regarded as serious. History confirms that no country has so far succeeded in retaining for long a monopoly on this or that means of mass destruction. The history of the atomic bomb and nuclear weapons, the strategic atomic submarines and the missiles with MIRVed warheads can testify to this.

We have no doubt that in the case of U.S. escalation of neutron weapons, its monopoly of this weapon will be of a very short duration.

The decision to produce the neutron bomb would result in another spiral in the arms race, in complications to the bilateral and multilateral talks on arms control and the establishment of a nuclear balance between the United States and the USSR at a higher, costlier and more dangerous level.

The question of the neutron bomb also has a purely humanitarian aspect. Every man on earth has the natural right to protection from the threat of nuclear catastrophe. The sincerity of the humane declarations made by contemporary politicians of the (?USA) can [words indistinct] by practical deeds directed at insuring this right. The neutron bomb which lowers the nuclear doorstep [yadernyy porog] is a serious threat to all mankind.

It is precisely for this reason, Mr President, that we are calling upon you to rise above transient considerations. We are convinced that the mutual renunciation of the production of the nuclear bomb is a necessary condition for advancement toward peace and mutual understanding among people.

MCGOVERN REPORT TO SENATE COMMITTEE URGES SALT PROGRESS

LD112123Y Moscow TASS in English 2110 GMT 13 Mar 78 LD

["From Reasonable Positions"--TASS headline]

[Text] Washington, March 11, TASS--Prominent American politician Senator George McGovern has submitted to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee a report on the detente and the new American Government.

The main attention in the report is paid to the state and prospects of Soviet-American relations. The document particularly stresses the need of the earliest successful completion of the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks.

The author of the report declares for further development of Soviet-American cooperation, stressing that East-West relations depend on how good are relations between Moscow and Washington. In this connection, he notes that the stand taken by the American administration, specifically the campaign over so-called violations of human rights, did not promote Soviet-American cooperation and was to a certain extent an obstacle to the process of detente.

McGovern criticises the U.S. Government for its discriminatory trade policy toward the USSR. Such practices, he stresses, reflect an outdated, pernicious conception which should be given up.

The report resolutely turns down the attempts of opponents of detente in the United States to present the Soviet Union as a country invariably hostile to the United States. Their fabrications about a "Soviet military menace" to the West, the hypothesis of "Soviet military intentions", the author points out, holds no water and contradicts the traditions, experience and behavior of the Soviet Union.

To ensure peace and security of their homeland is the priority task of the Soviet leaders, the Senator said. The Soviet Union, which experienced the horrors of the Second World War and lost in it 20 million human lives, shall not consider war as a reasonable alternative and the more so as a favourable opportunity.

Touching upon the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks, the Senator criticises the circles in the United States which seek to protract them. These circles want the United States to have unilateral advantages, and advocate production of new types of armaments. These negotiations, he warned, should be treated not as a means of attaining a relative advantage over the Soviet Union, but as a process that should benefit both sides. The permission to spend billions of dollars on new weapons should not be considered as a good service to the American people.

SENATE MAKES CONCESSIONS TO RIGHT WING ON PANAMA TREATY

LD140824Y Moscow TASS in English 0813 GMT 14 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Washington, March 14, TASS--The U.S. Senate, which discusses new treaties on the Panama Canal, on Monday approved an amendment to these treaties under which U.S. warships are granted the right of out-of-turn passage through the canal in case of "emergency".

Earlier, on Friday, the Senate approved an amendment which says that the United States gets "the right" to armed interference under the pretext of "defence" of the canal after the Panama Government takes it under its control in the year of 2,000.

These amendments, which largely infringe upon Panama's sovereignty, are a concession made by the U.S. administration under the pressure of extreme right-wing circles which are stubbornly [word indistinct] of the canal under control of its legitimate owner--Panama.

REACTIONARIES OPPOSE CANAL TREATY, REVEAL IMPERIALIST AIMS

LD140144Y Moscow in English to North America 2230 GMT 13 Mar 78 LD

[Mikhail Kremnev commentary]

[Text] As we all know, the Senate is split on the Panama Canal treaty as proposed by the administration. And the split is not over some procedural difficulties or some details. The Senate debates on the treaty reveal that certain influential quarters in the United States are simply not prepared to face the facts that other nations too have their own lawful rights and that political realities exist which simply cannot be brushed aside. These circles in the United States are trying on the one hand to pressure members of the Senate into voting against the ratification of the canal treaties. On the other hand they play up the great power and chauvinist sentiments of the public under the guise of patriotic feelings.

The hard liners are led by the former presidential candidate, Ronald Reagan. He attacks the proposed treaty on the new status of the canal as a surrender, a capitulation to Panama. In an article that appeared in the ORBIS magazine last fall, Ronald Reagan alleged that the United States had signed the canal treaties under pressure from Panama. He really made it sound as if the small Panamanian Republic had used some force or duress to secure the treaty. Ronald Reagan declared, and I quote: "We must remember that for a good deal of this period during which these treaties were negotiated, especially during the past 2 years, we were negotiating under repeated and at best semiveiled threats of violence."

What the former presidential candidate does not say is that the people and the government of Panama are determined to restore their sovereign rights on their own soil. And, as often happens under similar circumstances, men like Reagan and other enemies of a just settlement with Panama resort to the worn out bogey of a communist threat. They do so in a bid to hide their own imperialist schemes. Senator James McClure, for example, maintains that Panama sovereign rights over the canal would turn it into a target of communist subversion. Senator William Scott simply says the Canal Zone should become the 51st American state, or get the status of a free commonwealth associated with the United States, like Puerto Rico. The campaign against changing the status of the Panama Canal is supported by different reactionary groups in the United States. The American Conservative Union, for example, put out a leaflet saying there is no Panama Canal, what there is is the American canal in Panama. The leaflet demands that President Carter be prevented from letting go of the canal.

One should recall at this point that the treaties altering the status of the canal, that were signed in Washington on 7 September last year, represent a compromise between the two sides. They are not signs of liberalism on the part of the administration, but rather its recognition of the political realities in Latin America. Now what about Panamanians and their theories or the current political battle in the United States over the new status of the canal? To begin with, the Panamanians realize that the treaties as they exist now are far from being perfect because they fail to meet the traditional wishes of the people of the republic. The United States, for example, will have the right to introduce its troops into the Canal Zone at practically any time under the pretext of protecting the canal from an external threat. But generally speaking the Panamanians take a very realistic view of the canal treaties, and they are against any attempts to modify them, as proposed by many members of the American Senate. They feel that such amendments would alter the fundamental nature of the agreement.

There is every reason to believe that Panama will not go back on its own stand. Chief of Government Omar Torrijos said if the United States Senate does not ratify the new canal treaty this will be considered as the biggest yet provocation by the American side.

CONGRESSMAN DOWNEY HITS U.S. ARMS FOR REPRESSIVE REGIMES

LD131332Y Moscow TASS in English 1152 GMT 13 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Washington, March 13 TASS--TASS correspondent Yuriy Levchenko reports: Congressman Thomas Downey arrived at a meeting of the House Committee on International Relations, now discussing the question of sales of U.S. weapons abroad carrying a proof, a U.S.-made teargas grenade. The grenade was used by the Nicaraguan police on January 27 when it was dispersing a peaceful demonstration of students of the National Autonomous University of Nicaragua, who protested against the reprisals staged by the Somoza dictatorial regime. The grenade was picked up on the spot and delivered to the United States as proof of the involvement of official Washington in suppressing fundamental civil rights abroad.

The following facts indicate that the United States gives broad support to the dictatorial regime of Somoza. In 1973-1976, the United States supplied to the Nicaragua police about 2,000 revolvers, over 40,000 cartridges and 200 teargas grenades. Saudi Arabia bought from the United States about 7,000 units of firearms, about 400 submachine guns for the police, 600 teargas grenades. Large consignments of weapons and equipment for the police are also supplied to the repressive regimes of Chile, Guatemala, Haiti, Paraguay, South Korea, Thailand.

According to the data of the field foundation, the United States supplied in the recent years abroad, mainly to reactionary regimes, 50 thousand police revolvers, nine thousand submachine guns, over 150 thousand teargas grenades, about 300 armoured cars. Such deliveries are made in the form of "commercial deals" that can be easier concealed from the public than deliveries in the framework of the "military aid" programme. According to the data of the Congressman Downey, the volume of the sales of U.S.-made weapons under "commercial deals" rose from 100 million dollars a year on an average in the period from 1950 to 1969 to 450 million dollars a year in 1970-1975.

The deliveries of means of suppression cannot be assessed in any other way than as the United States' support for authoritarian regimes, as the United States direct participation in gross violation of human rights, Congressman Thomas Downey said.

DOLLAR RESCUE OPERATION HINDERED BY U.S. ECONOMIC CRISIS

LD132104Y Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1700 GMT 13 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, 13 Mar, TASS--TASS economic observer Sergey Stoklitskiy writes: The United States has been forced to start an active defense of its falling national currency. This is how the decision to carry out a large-scale operation "to save the floating dollar," which has just been announced simultaneously in Washington and Bonn, is to be interpreted first and foremost.

The U.S. Federal Reserve System (FRS) intends to begin massive buying of dollars on the currency markets, and thus create a higher demand for its currency in order to stabilize the exchange rate.

This operation will be financed through two channels: through a credit of $4 billion in marks, offered to the FRS by West Germany, and through $7.4 billion in special borrowing rights (SBR) from the International Monetary Fund, also borrowed from the FRG.

By making this decision, American capital has, in essence, admitted the complete fiasco of the "laissez faire" policy it has been pursuing for a year. Instead of helping to strengthen American expansion in foreign markets, as Washington was counting on, the lowering of the dollar's exchange rate has only poured oil onto the fire of contradictions in the world capitalist economy. What is more, not only the United States' basic partners in the developed capitalist world, but also the developing countries, especially the oil exporters, are now beginning to call the dollar to account. Because of the continual fall in the dollar rate, the basic currency in calculating oil prices on world markets, the states belonging to the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) have lost about $14 billion in export earnings.

Representatives of Iraq, Iran, Kuwait and many other OPEC member countries have demanded that an extraordinary conference be held to consider the question of using the dollar in future oil calculations. It became known a few days ago that this conference will be held at the beginning of next month. The elimination of the "oil privileges" of its national currency would mean a sharp rise in U.S. payments for oil, which is being imported in ever growing quantities, and this in turn would lead to an ever sharper increase in the balance of trade deficit of the largest state in the capitalist world.

The present U.S. administration was forced to start an active defense of the dollar by the growing dissatisfaction of business circles and the populace inside the country. The dollar crisis has a boomerang effect on America's business life. The growth in the cost of imports is causing more inflationary tendencies in the U.S. economy.

If one compares these facts with the size of the "rescue operation," one is forced to admit that its character is more than modest. It is not surprising that the lightning reaction of the currency exchange was negative: The dollar exchange rate, reports AP, immediately dropped in relation to the West German mark.

It would of course be possible to try to keep the dollar "afloat" with the help of operations on the currency market, but it is impossible to root out the basic causes of the crisis: the huge balance of trade deficit, which reached nearly $30 billion in the United States at the end of last year. At the same time the complete uncertainty of prospects for an improvement in the economic situation and the fate of the President's energy program (providing for a lessening of the country's dependence on imported oil) continued to drag the dollar down.

BREZHNEV CONGRATULATIONS TO YEH CHIEN-YING REPORTED

LD141037Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 11 Mar 78 p 1 LD

[Text] To Yeh Chien-ying, chairman of the PRC National People's Congress [NPC] Standing Committee:

In connection with your election as chairman of China's NPC Standing Committee I send you my congratulations.

[signed] L. Brezhnev, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

Kosygin Congratulates Hua Kuo-feng

LD141039Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 11 Mar 78 p 1 LD

[Text] To Hua Kuo-feng, premier of the PRC State Council: Accept my congratulations on the occasion of your appointment as premier of the PRC State Council.

[Signed] A. Kosygin, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers.

PRC'S NEW CONSTITUTION OMITS PEACE, FREEDOM CLAUSES

OW120528Y Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Mandarin to China 1430 GMT 10 Mar 78 OW

[Glebov commentary: "Comparing China's New and Old Constitutions"]

[Excerpt] China has published the text of its newly revised constitution. A review of the new constitution's clauses concerning China's foreign policy forces me to deplore the fact that in revising its old constitution, China has failed to give its people hope for the future. The PRC's new constituion contains the most reactionary theory of our era, Mao Tse-tung's Three Worlds theory. This proves that in foreign affairs China will continue to pursue its anti-Soviet and proimperialist policy. Just as we predicted, China's new constitution does not reflect the aspirations of the Chinese people, both the older and the younger generations who long to be free from endless sufferings. Like the constitution adopted in 1975, the new Chinese Constitution has deleted an explicit clause contained in the first PRC Constitution, adopted in 1954, which states: In international affairs, our steadfast principle is to strive for the lofty goal of world peace and human progress. The 1954 constitution also stated that China would grant asylum to aliens who, due to their participation in the peace movement, suffered from persecution. This clause has also been deleted from the new constitution.

PEKING SUPPORTS NEUTRON BOMB PRODUCTION, GLOBAL WAR

OW131846Y Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Mandarin to China 1100 GMT 10 Mar 78 OW

[Glebov commentary: "The Neutron Bomb and Its Peking Supporter"]

[Excerpts] It appears that the Chinese leaders do not oppose U.S. production of the neutron bomb, nor do they oppose the arming of NATO members with these mass-destruction weapons. Chinese officials and Peking propaganda have neither condemned the criminal goals of the imperialist aggressive clique nor reported the massive protests throughout the world.

Moreover, last September PEOPLE'S DAILY featured a poem by Chang Ai-ping, deputy chief of the General Staff of the Chinese PLA. The poem reads:

Alloy steel is not difficult to produce,

Why should it be difficult to produce neutron bombs?

With so many talented people studying science and technology.

We should dare to overcome all hardships in the world.

This doggerel was written by a high-ranking Chinese military leader when the Pentagon and NATO's bellicose elements were claiming that the neutron bomb was a miraculous weapon.

At the same time people throughout the world were campaigning against it. Taking other facts into consideration, we realize that the Chinese leaders not only support neutron weapons, but want to have these weapons themselves.

This conclusion does not contradict the principles followed by Peking over the last 2 decades. Since China's admission to the United Nations, it has never supported a disarmament proposal. For example, at the 32d UN General Assembly meeting the Chinese representatives did not support any of the more than 20 resolutions on disarmament. Yet all these resolutions were adopted by the First Committee of the UN General Assembly by a majority vote.

We must stress that, since Mao Tse-tung's death, the Peking ruling clique has carried out an opportunistic policy aimed at provoking a world war. At the recent NPC, Hua Kuo-feng belligerently called for war preparations and said that war is inevitable. China has used all possible methods for promoting the arms race, particularly an arms race involving missiles and nuclear weapons. China's military budget currently comprises over 40 percent of the total state budget, and Radio Peking has announced that the military budget will be increased in the future.

We can easily conclude that the Chinese adventurers are desperately trying to provoke a global nuclear war. Hence, like the U.S. imperialist aggressive clique, they do not oppose the manufacture and use of neutron bombs. The militarist bloc in the West has released much propaganda about this destructive weapon and has advocated the immediate production of neutron bombs and their deployment in Western Europe. Chinese leaders and propaganda have joined this movement. PEOPLE'S DAILY has minimized the threat of this weapon. It has also slandered the Soviet Union for proposing a ban on the production of these weapons.

Peking's leaders obviously want to light the fire of a global nuclear war so that they can profit from it. Peking politicians have never cared how many people may die in this war; they have never even cherished the lives of their own people who have always suffered greatly from China's war preparations and who will pay a high price in a future war. Mao Tse-tung once delcared that we should not be afraid if even half the Chinese population dies in a new war, and his successor is not uneasy about this idea either. Peking simply doesn't care if half the Chinese population perishes.

SOVIET ASSISTANCE TO PRC, MAOIST DECEIT PORTRAYED IN FILM

LD131425Y Moscow LITERATURNAYA GAZETA in Russian 8 Mar 78 p 9 LD

[B. Svetov review: "A Timely Reminder"]

[Text] Aleksandr Medvedkin's film "Peking--Mankind's Dread" has been released on the Soviet screen.

In this film, A. Medvedkin gives his personal views. But after viewing it, few can say that they do not share the opinions and conclusions of the author.

The whole film is vivid evidence of the Soviet Union's enduring internationalist policy. Every frame reflects our country's principled attitude toward the Chinese people, their joys and sorrows. We helped them to repulse the onslaught of the interventionists, build socialism, create heavy industry, strengthen their defense and train national cadres.

The film shows astounding scenes from the life of old China, filmed 50 years ago. Emaciated Chinese workers, dilapidated rickshas, children accompanying mothers to their work benches. These scenes have disappeared forever from Chinese life. Would it have been possible to eradicate them by relying only on "their own forces," as Mao Tse-tung asserted? No. Mao appears on the screen and pronounces the correct, wise words: "...If the Soviet Union did not exist, if Japanese militarism had not been routed, could we have been victorious in such circumstances? Of course not!"

The USSR contributed immeasurably to China's rout of the Japanese military and the victory of the revolution. But were these the only contributions? The film "Peking--Mankind's Dread" shows a curious map of China. It is covered with a network of dots. These depict the major industrial enterprises erected in China and equipped with the latest equipment with the help of the USSR. More than 250 major enterprises were built in the first 10 years of the PRC's existence. But these are figures which can also be read in a book. The screen gives us what is most important--the faces of people: The faces of the Soviet people who in the difficult years of restoration gave the Chinese people what they needed. The faces of the Chinese--joyful, friendly; the liberated workers and peasants studied the experiences of the Soviet workers with inspiration and perseverence.

But there are also other faces in the film. There is Mao Tse-tung embracing Soviet leaders. Somehow, the mask he is wearing does not conceal the malice in his smile. It is no coincidence that the film's director stops the frame at this point. "Mao Tse-tung's embraces concealed treason" he says. Indeed, look again at the face of the "traitor." What a contrast to the joy and sincerity of the Chinese peasants greeting the Soviet people. "When Mao Tse-tung died," Medvedkin says, "the Soviet people waited with dread: Where will his heirs lead China? Will they not remember our desecrated unity in the struggle for peace?.... No, they did not remember." The film clearly demonstrates that Mao Tse-tung's course of war and preparations for war still remain the basis of Peking's policy. Missiles, warplanes, the militarization of all of life.... The film's creator, Aleksandr Ivanovich Medvedkin, RSFSR people's artist and state prize winner, is well known at home and abroad. His latest films--"Letter to a Chinese Friend," "Our Friend Sun Yat-sen," "Night Over China," "Beware: Maoism!" and "Truth and Untruth"--show graphically and convincingly the adventurist nature of the Peking leadership's foreign and domestic policy. They generate broad responses in anyone who is concerned about the fate of the many millions of Chinese people and is worried about preserving and strengthening peace on our planet.

The Soviet Union would like to see China develop into a prosperous socialist power and to struggle with it for peace and against imperialism. But when this happens depends on China itself.

TASS NOTES 'ARAFAT-SED COMMUNIQUE FOLLOWING BERLIN VISIT

LD131420Y Moscow TASS in English 1345 GMT 13 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Berlin, March 13, TASS--The Socialist Unity Party of Germany and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) will further deepen their close and cordial relations under the agreement on cooperation between them for 1978-1979, which was signed in Berlin, says the joint communique issued here on the occasion of the official visit to the GDR of the PLO delegation led by Chairman of the PLO Executive Committee Yasir 'Arafat.

Special attention at the talks, the communique says, was devoted to the developments in the Middle East, where as a result of the continuing occupation by Israel of Palestinian and other Arab territories and the refusal of the imperialist and Zionist forces to recognise the inalienable national rights of the Arab people of Palestine, obstacles remain in the way towards a settlement of the Middle East conflict which constitutes a danger to peace all over the world.

Both sides condemned Israel's continuing campaign of terror in the occupied territories, the policy of establishing Israeli settlements and crude violations of human rights. Israel's incessant military incursions on Lebanon's territory were stigmatised by the sides as dangerous provocations detrimental to peace.

The sides unanimously placed on record that a comprehensive and just Middle East settlement can be achieved only with the equitable participation of PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Arab people of Palestine.

The communique specially notes that under the present conditions, of decisive significance for ensuring the legitimate rights of Arab peoples is a further consolidation of all the progressive national Arab forces and strengthening of their alliance with the USSR and the other states of the socialist community.

BULGARIA'S ZHIVKOV STOPS OVER IN USSR EN ROUTE TO JAPAN

LD111341Y Moscow TASS in English 1240 GMT 11 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Sofia, March 11, TASS--Chairman of the Bulgarian State Council Todor Zhivkov has left Sofia today for an official visit to Japan at the invitation of the Japanese Government. He is accompanied by Bulgarian Foreign Minister P. Mladenov, Chairman of the State Council for Science and Technical Progress H. Papazov, Chairman of the Bulgarian side of the Bulgarian-Japanese Committee for Economic and Scientific-Technical Cooperation, Vice-Chairman of the Bulgarian Council of Ministers A. Lukanov, Minister of Foreign Trade C. Khristov.

Arrives in Omsk

AU111943Y Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1830 GMT 11 Mar 78 AU

[Text] En route to Japan, Comrade Todor Zhivkov has made a brief stopover in Omsk. At the airport, he and those accompanying him were welcomed very cordially by Sergey Manyakin, first secretary of the Omsk Obkom; Anatoliy Blokhin, chairman of the Omsk Oblast People's Deputies Executive Committee; Viktor Ryzhkov, secretary of the Omsk Gorkom; (Ivan Litivinchov), chairman of the Omsk City People's Deputies Executive Committee; and responsible obkom officials.

The guests went sightseeing and afterwards visited the Pioneer Palace where they were cordially welcomed by the pioneers. Following this brief stopover, Comrade Todor Zhivkov continued his journey to Tokyo.

Stops in Khabarovsk

AU121333Y Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1030 GMT 12 Mar 78 AU

[Text] Our correspondent in Moscow reports: Our special correspondent Boyan Traykov reported from Khabarovsk that Todor Zhivkov, BCP Central Committee first secretary and State Council chairman, has arrived in Khabarovsk on route to Japan.

Comrade Zhivkov and those accompanying him were cordially greeted at the airport by Aleksey Chorni, first secretary of the Khabarovskiy Kraykom, and other city leaders. Comrade Zhivkov and those accompanying him toured Khabarovsk's sites and visited some of the newly constructed city districts. Comrade Todor Zhivkov paid his respects and laid flowers at the Lenin memorial.

At the city museum the guests were briefed on the city history and the struggle of the workers' class against the white guards and the intervention, as well as with their struggle for consolidating Soviet Government in Siberia.

The Khabarovskiy Kraykom and the krayispolkom gave a luncheon in honor of the distinguished Bulgarian guests. Comrades Todor Zhivkov and Aleksey Chorni spoke at the dinner and toasted the unity of the two fraternal parties and the friendship between the Bulgarian and Soviet peoples. The dinner took place in a very cordial and friendly atmosphere.

Tomorrow, the chairman of Bulgaria's State Council continues on his trip to Japan, where he will pay an official visit at the invitation of the Japanese Government.

BULGARIA'S TANO TSOLOV VISITS MOSCOW

AU132130Y Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 2000 GMT 13 Mar 78 AU

[Text] Tano Tsolov, BCP Central Committee Politburo member and first deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, arrived in Moscow.

At Vnukovo airport he was cordially welcomed by Nikolay Baybakov, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the USSR Gosplan.

In the afternoon a meeting between Comrades Tano Tsolov and Nikolay Baybakov was held at the headquarters of the USSR Gosplan.

SERBIAN CHIEF MINISTER ARRIVES IN MOSCOW

LD132053Y Belgrade TANJUG in English 1646 GMT 13 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 13, TANJUG--Dusan Ckrebic, chief minister of the Republic of Serbia, eastern Yugoslavia, arrived here today on a six-day official visit to the Soviet Union at the invitation of the Soviet Government.

With the other members of his several-member delegation at his side, Ckrebic will have talks in Moscow with Ivan Arknipov, vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Soviet Union and Soviet co-chairman of the joint Soviet-Yugoslav Intergovernmental Economic Committee, and other high-ranking Soviet officials on economic and scientific-technological cooperation to date and consider possibilities for its promotion and long-term development in various fields.

RESULTS OF FIRST ROUND IN FRENCH ELECTIONS REPORTED

LD131446Y Moscow TASS in English 1429 GMT 13 Mar 78 ID

[Text] Paris, March 13 TASS--The first round of elections to the National Assembly, parliament's lower chamber, was held yesterday in France. 35.8 million French men and women here invited to the polling stations. For the first time they included young people aged from 18 to 21. The record number of voters for the past two decades participated in the voting, about 83 percent of the poll.

According to the official data for 490 out of 491 districts that were published here, 45.1 percent of the ballots were cast for candidates of the three left parties--Communists, Socialist and Left Radicals. 20.5 percent of French men and women who participated in the voting cast their ballots for candidates of the Communist Party.

Candidates of the parties of the ruling majority earned 46.5 percent of the votes. The first place among them is held by candidates of the Gaullist Union for the Republic, 22.6 percent. They are followed by representatives of the Union for French Democracy (the bloc including Republicans, Centrists and small groupings).

Commenting on the results of the first round of the elections, the General Secretary of the French Communist Party Georges Marchais, the National Secretary of the Socialist Party Pierre Maurois and the Chairman of the Left Radicals Movement Robert Fabre stressed that the left forces earned more votes than in the first round of the 1973 parliamentary elections.

The results of the first round of the elections have great political significance since they reflect the attitude of the voters and the influence of each political party. Yet they do not determine the future composition of parliament since the distribution of only 68 seats was decided yesterday. The distribution of the remaining seats in the National Assembly will be decided in the second round that will be held on March 19. In that round the candidates will need to earn only a relative majority of votes to get a seat in parliament, while it was necessary to earn more than half of the votes in the first round.

In connection with the results of the first round and with the voting to be held on March 19, the main political parties and groupings hold meetings of their leading bodies. The plenary meeting of the Central Committee of the French Communist Party was held today.

The leadership of the French Communist Party addressed a proposal to the leading bodies of two other parties that signed the Joint Government Programme in 1972 that a meeting be held today to agree upon the tactics of the left forces for the second round. The leadership of the Socialist Party, too, declared for holding such a meeting. Speaking at a press conference, Georges Marchais said that the Communist Party suggests again to the Socialist Party and the Left Radicals Movement to conclude an agreement based on the Joint 1972 Programme brought in keeping with present-day conditions.

ARTICLE LAUDS LATE SPANISH COMMUNIST JOSE DIAZ

LD141018Y Moscow TASS in English 1002 GMT 14 Mar 78 LD

["Outstanding Revolutionary and Internationalist"]

[Text] Moscow, March 14 TASS--KOMMUNIST, the magazine of the CPSU Central Committee, carries an article dedicated to the memory of Jose Diaz, who was secretary general of the Communist Party of Spain. Its author, M. Tikhonov, writes:

"Diaz headed the Communist Party of Spain for ten years only, from 1932 to 1942, but those were years saturated to the limit by highly important historic events, both national and world-wide in scope, successes and tragic defeats of the Spanish working class and people. It was precisely in that decade that the Communist Party of Spain achieved the most important results since its foundation in 1920, in the struggle for the masses, for democracy and social progress, became a major and influential political force of the country which earned tremendous authority in the world communist movement."

"Diaz and the party he led were striving for unity of the antifascist forces at any cost, but not at any price. At any turn of events Diaz always remained true to principles, never humoured the viewpoint of his opponents and all the more was uncomprising if views and tactical solutions of allies threatened the unity of the popular front, led to the loss of gained positions."

"Guided by these principles, Diaz led the Communist Party through all difficulties and complications of class and political battles, seething in Spain in the thirties. These principles precisely enabled the party to unite and rally the democratic forces of the country in the antifascist front, to counter fascism with a united bloc of communists, socialists, anarchosyndicalists, bourgeois republicans and nationalists."

"Diaz regarded proletarian internationalism as part and parcel of the policy of the Spanish Communists. Emphasizing the international significance of the Spanish people's struggle against fascism, he more than once stressed that this fight could be won only with active assistance and support from the working class and democratic forces of the world, the fraternal communist parties. Diaz highly assessed the political, diplomatic and military aid of the Soviet people, who from the very first day unconditionally supported the just liberation war of the Spanish antifascists.

"It is but natural that in those conditions Diaz could not openly speak of all aspects of Soviet aid to the Spanish Republic. This aid, as is now common knowledge, was very significant and enabled the republicans for a long time successfully to contain the assault to the joint forces of fascism. Diaz just as highly assessed the aid to the republic from the international proletariat, especially the formation and military activity of the international brigades on the Spanish fronts, whose soldiers were, as he put it, champions of genuine proletarian internationalism."

"The internationalism of Diaz and the party he led was manifest not only in demonstrations of soldarity with the Soviet Union and fraternal parties, but also in the creative application in the specific conditions of Spain of the wealth of experience, accumulated by the world communist movement for a solution to the problems of the Spanish revolution. Diaz never belonged to those political leaders who, absolutizing national specific features, crossed out the tried and tested common principles of struggle for democracy and socialism in the country," the author of the article goes on to say.

"Allegiance to the principles of internationalism did not mean for Diaz renunciation of patriotism, of pride for his people, for their courageous struggle against exploiters and foreign invaders. He full well remembered the words of Georgiy Dimitrov who had emphasized that when communists rise in defense of the independence and freedom of their people, they do not become nationalists and bourgeois patriots, but do this as proletarian revolutionaries and true sons of their people."

"Jose Diaz rightly held an outstanding place in the history of the Spanish working class movement. He organically combined a clear intelligence, political sense, gift of prevision, firmness and resolve in the struggle for the interests of the working people, a high sense of party duty, unshakable allegiance to the ideas of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism. In the hardest periods of life of the country and the party, Diaz did not lose his inherent profound faith in the ultimate victory of the working class and the progressive forces of Spain."

ITALIAN CP WILL CONTRIBUTE TO STABILITY IN ITALY

LD132201Y Moscow in Italian to Italy 1730 GMT 13 Mar 78 LD

[Text] This week, a debate will be held in the Italian Chamber of Deputies which will conclude with a vote of confidence on the government formed by Giulio Andreotti. The government crisis which lasted nearly 2 months can therefore be considered over. Our observer writes:

The new government can depend on a parliamentary majority with the participation of the Communist Party, the Christian Democratic Party, the Socialist Party, the Social Democratic Party and the Republican Party.

The question of participation in one form or another by the working class and its organizations in the political leadership of the country has long been debated. The Communist Party, because of the number of votes obtained in the 1976 elections--34 percent--is the second largest. The communists are successfully administering, in alliance with other parties, local government organs in regions and provinces which support over half the total population of Italy. The prestige which the communists enjoy among the great working masses is unquestioned. In Italian conditions, the isolation of the communists is not only nonsense but also seriously damages national interests.

The agreement reached between the five parties puts an end to this isolation. All the leading Italian political forces were compelled to recognize the absolute necessity of collaboration with the communists. Neither opponents inside the right wing of the party in power nor the resistance of the monopolies or the open interference of the American State Department and NATO were able to influence this choice. The program of the future government includes measures to reduce the state deficit, combat inflation, increase employment primarily among the young, and other similar steps designed to overcome the economic crisis.

Expressing their agreement with these measures, the communists have stressed the need for joint efforts between the government and the political forces to immediately implement them. In this case, the objectives laid down in the common program will be able to contribute to economic and political stabilization in Italy.

FURTHER MATERIAL ON CLASH BETWEEN PALESTINIANS, ISRAELIS

U.S.-Israeli Policy

LD131505Y Moscow in Arabic to the Arab World 1230 GMT 13 Mar 78 LD

[Aleksandr Timoshkin commentary: "What Do the Events in a Suburb of Tel Aviv Indicate?"]

[Text] As reported from Tel Aviv, bloody events took place in Israel on Saturday. Our commentator, Aleksandr Timoshkin, writes: These and similar events have become possible only because a Middle East settlement is lacking. The main reason for these events is the hurried efforts by the United States and Israel to isolate the Palestine problem from the total problem of a Middle East settlement, thus perpetuating the deprivation of 3 million Palestinians of their rights, one way or another. This line is pursued particularly to encourage the Palestinians to react and seek confrontation which the Zionists and imperialist propaganda use all the time to create an anti-Palestinian hysteria and to justify their lack of desire to realize the national rights of the Palestinian people.

Tel Aviv and Washington are trying to prove what cannot be proved, as though it were possible to achieve justice and peace in the Middle East without the Palestinian people--who have suffered greatly--achieving the right to an independent state. As announced recently during a reception in the Kremlin in honor of the Moroccan prime minister, Soviet Prime Minister Aleksey Kosygin said that the Soviet Union believed that a Palestinian state should occupy the place it deserved among other states in the Middle East.

At the same time Tel Aviv and Washington do not stop repeating that they do not approve of the setting up of an independent Palestinian state for 3 million Arabs who have been forced for 30 years to find shelter in other Arab countries. In view of these facts, Washington's attempts to play the role of the so-called defender of human rights all over the world is the ultimate in hypocrisy. Thanks to unlimited military and nonmilitary U.S. aid to Israel and full U.S. support of Tel Aviv's expansionist policy, the latter insolently to this day continues to ignore the demands of the majority of world states, as was proved during the recent UN discussion of the Palestine problem: the demand to realize Palestinian rights and allow Palestinians to return home.

War Hysteria in Israel

LD131698Y Moscow in Polish to Poland 1500 GMT 13 Mar 78 LD

[Text] A new campaign of war hysteria has been started in Israel. As a pretext the Israeli authorities are attempting to use the incident near Tel Aviv, where a clash took place between a group of Palestinian partisans and Israeli Army units. Our commentator, Valentin Lyapin, writes in this connection:

The reaction of the Israeli authorities to this incident proves once again that Tel Aviv is attempting to worsen the situation in the Middle East by all possible means. There is open talk in Tel Aviv about the possibility of new armed action against the Arab states. Mass air raids by the Israeli Air Force are planned against neighboring countries. 'Ezer Weizman, minister of defense, hastily returned from the United States to Tel Aviv, and Prime Minister Menahem Begin has postponed his visit to the United States. Commentators believe that this is proof of provocative preparations for mass terrorist actions against the civilian population of neighboring countries.

Every Israeli provocation clearly worsens the explosive situation in the Middle East. This is in accordance with the Israeli policy of continuing expansion and forcing capitulation conditions on the Arabs. Israeli propaganda is attempting to use the incident near Tel Aviv to discriminate against the Palestinian resistance movement. Cairo also joined in this campaign by attacking the PLO, falsely accusing them of participating in terrorist activities. The situation in the Middle East causes anxiety throughout the world. The explosive situation in this region will clearly continue until there is a comprehensive settlement of the problem that takes into account the interests of Middle East nations, including the Arab nation and Palestine. Attempts to replace such a settlement with separatist negotiations do not lead to peace but to an even worse inflamation of the situation. Only a just settlement of the Middle East problem can insure peace for the nations of this region. All interested sides, including the PLO, should take part in the search for such a solution. By threatening Arab nations with new armed action, the Tel Aviv leaders assume great responsibility.

MORE MATERIAL ON MOROCCAN PRIME MINISTER'S USSR VISIT

Communique Issued

LD140017Y Moscow in Arabic to North Africa 2100 GMT 13 Mar 78 LD

["Text" of communique issued on 13 March on visit by Moroccan Prime Minister Ahmed Osman to the USSR]

[Text] Ahmed Osman, Moroccan prime minister, visited the Soviet Union from 9 to 13 March 1978, at the invitation of the Soviet Government. In Moscow, the Moroccan prime minister laid wreaths on Lenin's mausoleum and on the tomb of the unknown soldier. In addition to Moscow, Ahmed Osman visited Leningrad. The Moroccan prime minister was warmly welcomed everywhere. Constructive talks were held between Aleksey Kosygin, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the Soviet Council of Ministers, and Moroccan Prime Minister Ahmed Osman.

During the talks, the two sides discussed all aspects of the relations of friendship and comprehensive cooperation existing between Morocco and the Soviet Union and international issues concerning the two sides. The two sides have stressed that, during the 20 years of diplomatic relations between the Soviet Union and Morocco, Soviet-Moroccan relations have consistently developed on the basis of principles of peaceful coexistence; respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity and noninterference in internal affairs; equal rights; and mutual advantage. They are satisfied at the development of economic and trade cooperation between the Soviet Union and Morocco. They underlined the existence of favorable conditions for the expansion of economic ties between the two countries. In this respect, the Moroccan side has expressed high appreciation for the positive contribution of the Soviet Union in the realization of some important projects for the development of Morocco. The Soviet side voiced its intention to continue along this political line.

During the talks special attention was accorded to the studying of plans for cooperation between the Soviet Union and Morocco, on the basis of compensation and balance in the exploitation of phosphate mines in Miskela in Morocco. In this respect, it was agreed to conduct a long-term exchange of goods between the two countries. The agreement reached was named the Long-Term Agreement Between the Government of the USSR and the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco on Economic and Technical Cooperation in the Field of Phosphates and Concerning the Protocol on Exchange of Goods signed for 30 years.

At the same time, additional protocols were signed concerning implementation of the above-mentioned agreements. With a view to developing and expanding mutually advantageous trade between the Soviet Union and Morocco, the two sides have agreed on the need to conclude a new trade agreement as soon as possible, covering 7 years. During debates on the international situation, the two sides stressed the identity and closeness of their views concerning a number of problems of the hour. It was reaffirmed that, as result of efforts by peace-loving states during recent years, the danger of nuclear war is receding and a tendency towards detente is growing in international relations. The two sides called for the spreading of detente to all the regions of the world. In this connection, they stressed the importance [words indistinct] of the declaration issued by the UN General Assembly on 19 December 1977 concerning the deepening and strengthening of detente. In view of the fact that disarmament is a major contemporary issue, the two sides reaffirmed their determination to contribute to the conclusion of an international convention on the nonuse of force in international relations; a halt to the arms race; a complete ban on nuclear arms tests and chemical arms and on the study and production of new types and systems of weapons of mass destruction; and realization of general, complete disarmament. Given that both sides are members of the Disarmament Committee and the committee on the convening of an international conference on disarmament, they agreed to continue cooperation to secure success for the UN General Assembly special session on disarmament and to constructively contribute to (?solving) the issue of preparing for an international conference on disarmament, which is likely to work out effective measures for solving urgent disarmament problems.

The two sides discussed the situation in the Middle East. They stressed the danger this situation constitutes to the stability of the region and also to world security. They strongly condemned Israel's expansionist and aggressive policy, and they once again declared that any settlement must be based on Israel's complete withdrawal from all Arab territories occupied in 1967 and on recognition of the national legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arab people, including their right to set up a sovereign state. The two sides expressed their intention to strive to reach a just and firm settlement in the Middle East in which all the parties concerned, including the PLO, take part. Participants in the talks pointed out in particular that the just settlement of the Middle East issue will have an impact on spreading detente to the Mediterranean and on making this an area for world peace and cooperation. The two sides once again stressed their attitude of strongly condemning the two racist regimes in the Republic of South Africa and Zimbabwe, and also the illegal occupation of Namibia by the South African regime. They fully support demands to hand over all reins of power to true representatives of the majority of the Zimbabwe people, to grant independence to the people of Namibia, and to immediately abandon the policy of racial discrimination and racism in the Republic of South Africa.

Stressing the important role of the United Nations as an instrument in the cause of consolidating world peace and security and in promoting world cooperation, the two sides deem it necessary to consolidate these (?organizations) and to increase their effectiveness on the basis of respecting the aims, the principles and the Charter of the United Nations. Participants in the talks stressed their intention to continue to exert efforts to reach agreed-upon decisions with regard to the new agreement on marine (?rights) which will collectively organize the pressing issues of using the oceans of the world and their resources. They regard it as important the essential progress be made in the realizati of this goal at the coming session of the United Nations on the law of the sea.

Both the Soviet and Moroccan sides believe that the visit of Ahmed Osman, prime minister of the Kingdom of Morocco, to the Soviet Union has been a constructive contribution to the promotion of the cordial relations that exist between the two countries. They underlined their readiness to continue their customary periodical consultations on important international issues that concern both sides and on issues of bilateral relations. Prime Minister Ahmed Osman thanked the Soviet Government profoundly for the welcome and hospitality accorded him and the Moroccan delegation. He extended an invitation to the chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, Aleksey Kosygin, to pay an official visit to Morocco. The invitation has been accepted with thanks; its date is to be determined later.

Osman Cable to Kosygin

LD132002Y Moscow TASS in English 1830 GMT 13 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 13, TASS--Completing his visit to the Soviet Union, the prime minister of the Kingdom of Morocco, Ahmed Osman, sent from board the plane a telegram to Aleksey Kosygin, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers. The telegram says: "On behalf of the Moroccan delegation and on my own behalf, I want to express heart-felt gratitude to the hospitable Soviet Union. I am pleased that this meeting has had positive results for cooperation and the development of friendly ties of long standing between Morocco and the USSR. These friendly ties are effective for the interests of the two countries. The climate of mutual friendliness and cordiality is satisfying, and it enables us to look into the future with great optimism. Expecting your return visit to Morocco I ask you to accept my cordial wishes and sincere assurances of friendship."

Attendance at Kremlin Talks

The item under the general heading "More Material on Moroccan Prime Minister's USSR Visit" and subheaded "Kremlin Talks" of the 10 March Soviet Union DAILY REPORT, page F 5, has been compared with an item in Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 10 March, which front-pages a TASS report adding the following names to the list of officials present: S.A. Skachkov, chairman of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations; N.S. Patolichev, USSR minister of foreign trade; A.A. Ishkov, USSR minister of fish industry; and L.F. Ilichev, USSR deputy minister of foreign affairs, from the Soviet side. Mohamed Karim Lamrani, general director of the national phosphates administration; Abdelkamel Raghaye, minister of commerce and industry; Moussa Saadi, minister of energy and mineral resources; Othman Slimani, state secretary in the prime minister's office in charge of economic affairs; Abdallah Lahlou, general director of the purchases and exports administration; and Abdelaziz el-Belehiti, general director of the national fisheries administration.

AIMS OF ISRAEL-U.S. NUCLEAR INTRIGUE EXPLORED

LD131249Y Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 11 Mar 78 p 3 LD

[R. Nikolayev article: "Nuclear Ambitions of Israeli Militarists"]

[Text] The world press has repeatedly published reports that Israel has at its disposal not only delivery vehicles for nuclear weapons but also nuclear weapons themselves. At first, it is true, this was only said conjecturally. Thus the French weekly LE NOUVEL OBSERVATEUR wrote in one of its issues last year: "Let us imagine a fantastic picture in the 1973 war: The Arab armies are pressing Israeli divisions, advancing on Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, and Israel is dying. Golda Meir issues an ultimatum, declaring that nuclear weapons will be used. What would the Israeli prime minister's threat have meant in the Near East at that time?... Some 150,000 people would die in Cairo and Damascus, and perhaps twice as many on the battlefields."

In painting this picture the LE NOUVEL OBSERVATEUR correspondent stipulated that this was only a conjecture, but here is a report in the U.S. weekly TIME. It says that at the start of the war in October 1973 Israel had hastily gathered together--in 78 hours--13 atom bombs in a secret underground tunnel. "At that time," TIME wrote, "the Egyptians had repulsed the first counterattacks along the Suez Canal, inflicting great losses on the Israelis, while on the Golan Heights Israeli troops were retreating under pressure from Syrian tanks. At 2200 on 8 October Maj Gen Yizhaq (Khofi), Israeli commander of the northern front, told his chief: 'I'm not sure we can hold out for long.' After midnight Defense Minister Moshe Dayan seriously warned Prime Minister Golda Meir: 'This is the end of Israel.' Therefore Golda Meir permitted Dayan to use Israel's 'doomsday weapon.' All the bombs were collected and delivered to aircraft, but before the command to use them could be given the battle on both fronts turned in Israel's favor. The 13 bombs were sent to arsenals in the desert, where they remain to this day, ready for use." This report is confirmed by a declassified CIA report recently published in New York. It states that as long ago as 1974 the CIA was firmly convinced that Israel was producing nuclear weapons.

As we see, the French magazine's conjecture proved very close to the truth. During the 1973 war, and this is confirmed by TIME, Israel was ready to use the weapons of mass destruction at its disposal--the atom bomb. In other words, at that moment the Near East was on the brink of a devastating nuclear war. A natural question arises: How did the Israelis manage to become the possessors of such a complex and costly weapon as the atomb bomb?

To answer this question we will make a brief excursion into not so remote history. A plan to create the atom bomb existed even at the initial stage of the emergence of the state of Israel. Its first president--Chaim Weizmann, who was an eminent chemist--encouraged atom scientists. In those years they managed to produce low-quality uranium from phosphates in the Negev Desert and developed an effective technological process for the production of heavy water. In 1953, in exchange for data on these processes, Israel received permission to study France's nuclear program and to participate in nuclear tests in the Sahara. Four years later France supplied Israel with its first nuclear reactor. And later, with the help of certain U.S., French and FRG circles, Israel created its own nuclear scientific research center at Dimona in the Negev Desert.

The nuclear reactor at Dimona began operating in 1964, and a plant for the separation of isotopes to produce the fissionable matter essential for an atomb bomb was commissioned in 1969. These projects are top secret and are guarded by troops and the most modern electronic systems and radar installations. The following attests to the significance that the Israelis attach to keeping secret what takes place at those plants. During the 6-day war of 1967 a Mirage aircraft of the Israeli Air Force accidentally flew over Dimona and was shot down by an antiaircraft missile launched by the guard. And in 1973 the Israelis did not stop at destroying a Libyan airliner with 113 people on board, which, having lost its bearings, headed for a prohibited region. Israeli Air Force fighters shot it down without warning.

The problem of obtaining sufficient quantities of uranium raw materials poses the greatest difficulty for Israel in developing and producing the atom bomb. But Tel Aviv is surmounting even this difficulty with the support of U S. circles. Facts shedding light on how Israel "extracts" uranium became public property not so long ago. Most sensational was the case of the loss in 1968 of the ship that had on board 200 tons of uranium ore--sufficient to create 30 atom bombs. As has been ascertained, this ship together with its entire cargo ended up in Israel as the result of joint operations by Israeli and U.S. intelligence.

The Washington STAR has reported on Israel's typical method of obtaining nuclear materials. A significant quantity of enriched uranium mysteriously "vanishes" every year from U.S. enterprises connected with the nuclear industry. An investigation into one such "loss" at an enterprise of the nuclear materials and equipment company at the Apollo nuclear center (Pennsylvania), the newspaper writes, showed that this U.S. company has a branch which it controls in "partnership" with the Israeli Government. Therefore there can be no doubt, the newspaper sums up, that the "vanished" uranium was actually redirected to Israel with the knowledge of the company's leadership. Thus U.S. business gives direct support to Tel Aviv's nuclear programs. The Republic of South Africa has become another source of uranium for the Israelis. It has been reported that Tel Aviv has pledged to give Pretoria nuclear technology in exchange for deliveries of South African uranium. Nuclear cooperation between Zionist Israel and the racist Republic of South Africa is intensifying.

As is known, Israel has refused to sign the nuclear nonproliferation treaty. However, right up until the 1973 war Tel Aviv officially denied foreign press reports on its development of nuclear weapons. But the war of October 1973 showed that the Zionists are no longer capable of securing obvious superiority over the Arab armies by conventional means. This is why the Israeli "hawks," who do not wish to abandon the expansionist policy with regard to Arab lands, have ceased concealing their nuclear ambitions.

In December 1974 the official face of Tel Aviv--in this case President Efrayim Qazir--admitted for the first time that Israel has the "potential" for producing nuclear weapons. Somewhat later the country's military industry--and Tel Aviv deliberately did not hide this fact--began starting up production of Jericho missiles and Kfir aircraft, which are capable of delivering nuclear weapons. At the same time Israel began trying to secure from the United States deliveries of arms of a type capable of delivering nuclear weapons. And Washington agreed, although people there were perfectly well informed as to why Israel needed such war materiel. In the end, the Tel Aviv "hawks" received 300 U.S. Lance missiles capable of carrying nuclear warheads. It is also reported that Israel is now seeking deliveries of more powerful U.S. Pershing missiles, with which the Zionists will be able to keep in their nuclear sights Arab cities within a radius of approximately 700 km.

The nuclear-missile preparations of the Israeli aggressors, encouraged by U.S. circles, would not fail to arouse very serious concern among both the Arab and world public. The Soviet Government statement on the Near East published 29 April 1976 warned of their danger. It stated, in particular, that "the Israeli arms buildup is continuing on a tremendous scale. The United States is sending there diverse modern weapons, including missiles adapted to carry both conventional and nuclear charges. Reports that Israel is creating or has already created its own nuclear weapons are alarming in this connection."

Nonetheless, deliveries of U.S. weapons, individual types of which are nuclear capable, are continuing. It is obvious that the introduction of the nuclear element into the Near East crisis not only does not alarm Washington but also accords with long-term U.S. plans in that region. The aims of the Israel-U.S. nuclear-missile intrigue leave no doubt; they are to intimidate the Arab states and to make them abandon the liberation of the vast Israeli-occupied territories and yield to the joint diktat of Tel Aviv and Washington. And all this in the name of safeguarding U.S. strategic interests in the Near and Middle East. But on the other hand U.S. support for the nuclear ambitions of the Israeli "hawks" is designed to strengthen rightist forces in Israel itself and to support the rulers of the Zionist state in their pursuit of an expansionist policy and in their desire to continue to struggle against the Arab anti-imperialist national liberation movements.

The stand taken by the Israeli representative on the first committee of the UN General Assembly was significant in this respect. At the end of last year this committee advocated the creation of a nuclear weapon-free zone in the Near East region. Some 117 countries voted for the corresponding resolution, and only Israel's representative was against it. He thereby demonstrated once again that the Tel Aviv ruling circles are not interested in strengthening peace but on the contrary are doing everything to complicate the situation in the Near East.

But playing with nuclear weapons is playing with fire--a dangerous game. Tel Aviv's nuclear pretensions, backed by support from transatlantic patrons, may turn the Near East into an arena of the nuclear arms race, which will delay for a long time the achievement of lasting, strong and just peace in this region. Such a prospect in no way accords with the interests of the peoples of the Near East or the world.

AS-SADAT LEADING EGYPTIAN PEOPLE INTO BLIND ALLEY

LD122133Y Moscow in Arabic to the Arab World 1700 GMT 12 Mar 78 LD

[Yevgeniy Dmitriyev commentary: "The Egyptian President's Blind Alleys']

[Excerpts] It has been nearly 4 months since As-Sadat made his journey to occupied Jerusalem, thus inaugurating the "era of television diplomacy," an accurate phrase used by journalists to describe the activity of the Egyptian president, who seized every possible opportunity to make statements. That step was followed by many others--he met with Begin and then with Carter; joint committees were set up and they held meetings; and official and unofficial meetings were held between Israeli and Egyptian ministers.

What results have there been from all this tempestuous activity? Political observers point to two main results. The first is the fact that, by embarking on the course of separate and capitulatory talks, As-Sadat whetted Israel's expansionist appetite and erected more obstacles and barriers on the path of a comprehensive Middle East settlement. He also chose to forget all the agreements unanimously reached by the Arabs. It was inevitable, therefore, that As-Sadat would find himself in complete isolation. All the efforts by the United States to draw at least one Arab country into these talks have failed.

Hence the second result: Sensing the weakness of Cairo's position and relying on ever-increasing support from Washington, Israel hardened its policy in the Middle East. With unprecedented shamelessness, Tel Aviv stressed its ambition and intention to keep the Arab territory it usurped in 1967, including Egypt's, and also demanded that the issue of Palestinians' right to self-determination be dropped. It went even farther, putting forward other conditions; it went so far as to demand a reconsideration of the well-known UN resolutions.

What could As-Sadat do when he realized that Israel has remained immovable and openly refuses to accept any Arab proposal? Here is As-Sadat bowing his head more and more to the United States. In a separate effort to find a way out of this blind alley, the president of Egypt declared that his country must be another Israel for the Americans in the Middle East. To put it more plainly, As-Sadat declared his willingness to play the role of the executor of U.S. goals in the Middle East, goals whose anti-Arab nature, or rather antipeoples nature, no one in the world doubts today. So that these statements and declarations would not remain just ink on paper, As-Sadat offered his services in support of Somalia's aggression against Ethiopia, and he massed his troops on the border with the Libyan Jamahiriyah. The president of Egypt did not stop at that. He embarked on a fierce campaign against the Palestinians in an effort to please his American friends.

He began to shower curses on the PLO, the sole legitimate and recognized representative of the Palestinian people. He embarked on a filthy campaign of lies in the press against Palestinian leaders. He also kicked the sons of the Palestinian people out of the country. But all this did not bring As-Sadat any advantage.

There is another thing that leads Egypt further into this blind alley--As-Sadat's domestic policy. By admission from Egyptian experts themselves, the open-door policy has failed completely.

It is quite easy to trace the link between As-Sadat's domestic and foreign policies. Capitulation before the enemy, a desire to serve the United States, retreating before reactionary forces and rightist bourgeois forces in the country, and giving these forces ample opportunity to become rich at the expense of the toiling masses of people and to betray the national liberation principles of the late President Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir--are all these not links in the same chain? Where will this road, on which As-Sadat is dragging the people of Egypt with such determination and persistence, lead?

The least that can be said today is that As-Sadat has put Egypt in a difficult position and has deprived it of its friends and of Arab support and backing. This is what Tel Aviv and Washington are now strongly exploiting.

PDRY-ETHIOPIA AIR SERVICE AGREEMENT RATIFIED

LD130120Y Moscow TASS in English 0915 GMT 12 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Aden, March 12, TASS--An agreement on regular air service between Aden and Addis Ababa was ratified here. It was concluded by representatives of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen and Ethiopia in October last year. The ratification law was signed by Salim Rubayyi' 'Ali, chairman of the Presidential Council of the PDRY.

CORDIALITY AT CPSU DELEGATION'S TALKS IN PDRY

LD121820Y Moscow in Arabic to the Arab World 1530 GMT 12 Mar 78 LD

[Text] In Aden talks began yesterday between a CPSU delegation headed by Tyazhelnikov, member of the CPSU Central Committee and head of the committee's Propaganda Department, and a PDRY delegation led by 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Wali Nashir, member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Unified Political Organization National Front, minister of industry, and chairman of the PDRY-Soviet Friendship Committee.

During the talks, held in an atmosphere of friendship, understanding and cordiality, the participants discussed questions of comprehensive development and strengthening of party relations between the CPSU and the PDRY National Front.

GREEK CP GROUP IN MOSCOW CONDEMNS U.S. ROLE IN CYPRUS

LD132015Y Moscow TASS in English 1812 GMT 13 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 13, TASS--Boris Ponomarev, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, Konstantin (?Chernenko), alternate member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, Vadim Zagladin, alternate member of the CPSU Central Committee, first deputy head of the International Department of the [words indistinct] had a meeting today at the CPSU Central Committee with a delegation of the Communist Party of Greece consisting of Harilaos Florakis, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Greece, and A. Ambatielos and K. Tsolakis, members of the Political Bureau of the CPG Central Committee.

Representatives of the CPSU highly appreciated the successes achieved in strengthening the CPG ranks organisationally and ideologically, which further increased its prestige and influence. These successes were made possible by the consistent implementation and creative application of the principles of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism by the Greek Communists. The Soviet Communists reaffirmed their solidarity with the struggle of the CPG for independence, sovereignty and democratic development of their country.

Both delegations expressed themselves firmly against the policy of the arms race pursued by American imperialism, and specifically plans for manufacture of the neutron bomb, a weapon of mass destruction and for deploying it in the territory of Europe. The two sides also condemn machinations by the imperialists in the Eastern Mediterranean and over Cyprus, and come out for a peaceful settlement of the Cyprus problem on the basis of the U.N. resolutions, in defence of peace and the interests of the peoples in the area.

The delegation of the CPG informed the Soviet side on the political situation in the country, an upsurge of the struggle of the working people against the policy of ruling circles, a policy which tends specifically to increase Greece's economic and political dependence on the USA and NATO. The CPG comes out undeviatingly in defence ofthe basic interests of the working people of Greece, seeks freedom for Greece from domination by foreign and local monopolies as well as its final withdrawal from NATO and removal of foreign military bases on Greek soil, and fights for national independence, genuine freedom, social progress and peace between all countries and peoples.

The delegations of the CPSU and the CPG declare their determination to contribute to further rallying the ranks of the world communist movement on the principled basis of the great international revolutionary teaching of Marx, Engels and Lenin, and come out for resolute struggle against anticommunism in any form.

The CPSU and the CPG will do everything in their power for the further development of fraternal relations between the two parties and traditonal friendship between Greece and the Soviet Union. The meeting took place in an atmosphere of cordiality and complete mutual understanding.

CRETE PROTESTS FOREIGN BASES ON GREEK SOIL

LD111630Y Moscow TASS in English 1533 GMT 11 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Athens, March 11, TASS--A mass meeting of protest against foreign military bases on the soil of Greece was held in the town of Khania in Crete Island. Participants in the meeting held a demonstration under the slogans "Down With U.S. Military Bases." "There is No Place for NATO on the Greek Soil!"

The meeting in Khania, the newspaper KRIZOSPASTIS writes, has shown that the population of Crete, in common with all the Greek [people], resolutely declares against the fettering military agreements of Greece with its "Atlantic [word indistinct]".

TURKISH PRESS HITS NATO INTERFERENCE, MILITARIZATION

LD101029Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 9 Mar 78 p 5 LD

[Report by PRAVDA correspondent A. Filippov: "Sharp Condemnation"]

[Text] Ankara, 8 March--Washington's arms race policy has been sharply criticized in the paper POLITIKA, one of Turkey's most important publications.

By exaggerating the hackneyed "Soviet threat" issue, Washington and the NATO generals are encouraging European and other countries to purchase weapons and inflat military budgets and are exacerbating tension, the article says. We cannot avoid concern over the persistence with which NATO General Haig, for example, is currently trying to implement plans for the deployment of a weapon of mass destruction--the neutron bomb--in Western Europe.

The Western powers will not leave Turkey alone either, the article continues. They oppose the development of Turkey's relations with the Soviet Union, other socialist states and the countries of the Third World and inhibit the economic development of our country.

No matter how persuasive the NATO generals might be, Turkey must not be under the West's thumb, the article notes in conclusion. It must pursue a firm independent foreing policy, a policy of neighborliness and peace, and develop broad international economic ties.

KARAMANLIS-ECEVIT NEGOTIATIONS END IN SWITZERLAND

LD112108Y Moscow TASS in English 2056 GMT 11 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Montreaux, Switzerland, March 11, TASS--Two-day negotiations between Prime Minister of Greece Constantine Karamanlis and Prime Minister of Turkey Bulent Ecevit have ended here. The negotiations centered on questions of bilateral relations. The two heads of government exchanged opinions on ways of resolving the Cyprus crisis, the problem of using the shelf of the Aegean Sea and air space over it.

A communique that has been circulated here points out that the sides decided to continue the discussion of these matters at the next meetings.

ETHIOPIAN MINISTER VISITS USSR EN ROUTE HOME FROM GDR

LD131437Y Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 10 Mar 78 Morning Edition p 4 LD

[Text] TASS--Ethiopian Foreign Minister Teleke Gedle-Giorgis was in Moscow on his way home from Berlin 8 March.

He was met and seen off at the airport by USSR Deputy Foreign Minister L.F. Ilichev and other officials. The welcoming party included T. Meshesha, Ethiopian ambassador to the Soviet Union.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS ON HORN OF AFRICA CONFLICT

Relief Work; Somali Brigades

LD131405Y Moscow TASS in English 1342 GMT 13 Mar 78 LD

[Excerpt] Addis Ababa, March 13, TASS--Ethiopia's state and public organizations conduct vast work to give relief to the population of eastern and southern districts out of which Somali troops have been driven. The material damage that was caused by the invaders is estimated at hundreds of millions of dollars. Tens of thousands of people became homeless and have no means of subsistence.

The ETHIOPIAN NEWS AGENCY reports that refugees returning to the native places are supplied with seeds, farming implements and building materials. Food, blankets, clothing and baby foods are distributed among them. They are given free medical aid and medicines.

A unit of volunteers consisting of 2,000 school pupils of the senior grades and students was formed in Bale Province in the south-east of Ethiopia. They left for newly-liberated villages of the province to give assistance to peasants.

New York, March 13, TASS--According to a report of a UPI correspondent, four brigades of non regular troops are being equipped in Somalia to continue the struggle in the Ogaden after Somali troops are withdrawn from the area.

Two groupings that have Somalia's support also announced their plans to continue hostilities in the Ogaden.

Report from Jijiga

LD132346Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 2130 GMT 13 Mar 78 LD

[Excerpts] The revolutionary Ethiopian Army and people's militia units are continuing their successful offensive operations against the Somali aggressors. Our correspondent, Vadim Lobachenko, reports from the Ethiopian town of Jijiga, which was liberated from the Somali aggressors a few days ago:

In Jijiga, where about 40,000 persons lived prior to the Somali aggression, there are almost no civilians. Some left town when Somali troops invaded. Several thousand people who lived there during the 6 months of occupation were driven to Somalia by the interventionists. A tiny group of Jijiga's civilians have told us about the mass driving away of the population.

There are still isolated hotbeds of Somali resistance. The Ethiopian Army, while dealing blows to the retreating Somali units, is also engaged in clearing liberated areas of individual armed groups of Somalis. The Somali aggressors cannot seriously resist our victorious units. The revolutionary Ethiopian Army has already entered the Ethiopian-Somali border area and, despite all the assistance received by the ruling Somali circles from Arab and world reactionaries, the day of victory over the aggressors is not far off.

Vast Areas Liberated

LD141200Y Moscow TASS in English 1149 GMT 14 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Addis Ababa, March 14, TASS--The Ethiopian people's army liberated vast districts of the eastern Province of Hararge from the Somali forces. The national flag once again flies over the town of Werder, which lies at the junction of important roads, and the town of Walwal. A communique, issued by the National Revolutionary Operations Command, points out that the armed forces and detachments of Ethiopia's people's militia are successfully developing their offensive on all fronts.

Warsaw, March 14, TASS--Ethiopian troops continue advancing practically encountering no resistance from the retreating Somalis, the Addis Ababa correspondent of the Polish news agency reports. On many sectors of the front, Ethiopian troops stopped their further advance at 25-30 kilometres from the Somali frontiers, so that the Somali side could not have a pretext for provocations and accusations against Ethiopia of violating the frontier between the two countries.

Nairobi, March 14, TASS--Remnants of Somali troops, routed in Ethiopia and turned to flight, burned down the Ethiopian village Malka-Suftu, which lies on a bank of the Dawa River, opposite the Kenyan town of Mandera. Kenyans witnessed how soldiers in Somali Army uniforms set alight one home after another in Malka-Suftu. The Somalis then moved into the direction of another Ethiopian village, Bulla Hawa.

Prerequisites for Peace

LD131424Y Moscow in English to Africa 1500 GMT 13 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Reports from Addis Ababa say Ethiopian troops have reached the border with Somalia in the south, and in the east, Ethiopia has restored control over most areas which Somali troops occupied. Our commentary is by Vladislav Chernukha:

Everything indicates the Ethiopian area of the Ogaden will soon be cleared of the Somali invaders, and this will create the necessary prerequisites for restoring peace in the Horn of Africa. As for Ethiopia, her stand is aimed at speeding up these prerequisites. Her leaders have said more than once that troops will not cross the border with Somalia. Ethiopia makes no territorial claims on Somalia. In a recent Addis Ababa statement the Foreign Ministry noted the Ethiopian people do not feel hostility for the Somali people, despite everything that has taken place. So Ethiopia is full of determination to restore peace on the Horn of Africa. If this goal is to be achieved, the Somali leaders must write off their territorial claims unconditionally. The Horn of Africa will become an area of peace and a stability if the Somali leaders pledge to strictly follow the resolutions of the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity on the guidelines for intergovernmental relations. Above all it must follow the principle of no interference in the internal affairs of other countries and repudiation of force to solve international disputes.

What would also help restore peace on the Horn of Africa is a pledge by other countries not to interfere in the future. A pledge of this kind must be given first of all by the United States and its NATO partners and also China. They supplied weapons to the aggressor. It is now clear it was Western nations that encouraged Somalia to carry out an act of aggression against Ethiopia. But Somalia has failed, and the Western nations are calling for a cease-fire. The United States and its allies, however, try to combine the withdrawal of Somali troops with the presence of military personnel in Ethiopia, personnel invited by the Ethiopian Government. Western nations have also put forward the idea of sending foreign observers to Ethiopia. But these suggestions, says the Ethiopian Foreign Ministry, are tantamount to interference in the country's internal affairs. So they are unacceptable. They cannot help restore peace on the Horn of Africa. The Soviet Union supports Ethiopia's stand aimed at restoring peace in that part of Africa. It tried to prevent the conflict. But when it did erupt the Soviet Union pressed for an unconditional withdrawal of Somali troops from the occupied territory. It has been doing this ever since. The Soviet Union has always urged a peaceful solution of the conflict between Somalia and Ethiopia. In doing so its only goal has been to restore peace and good-neighborliness between the two nations.

NATO Policy

LD131303Y Moscow NOVOYE VREMYA in Russian No 11, 10 Mar 78 p 12 LD

[P. Mezentsev article: "Horn of Africa: Covering Tracks"]

[Text] The successful counteroffensive by Ethiopian troops and detachments of the people's militia against regular Somali Army units that invaded the Ogaden has caused a real commotion in the NATO military and in capitals of the Arab states that are sending arms to Mogadiscio. Disregarding the facts, the press of countries generously feeding Somali aggression has begun to make a noise about a "threat" from Ethiopia--the victim of aggression--allegedly hanging over Somalia. The United States is savoring this theme particularly zealously. Some U.S. commentators are quite often juggling with "information" and figures drawn from who knows where. For instance, they allege that it is not Ethiopian but Cuban troops that are fighting on the Ogaden front. UPI has disseminated a canard to the effect that there are also "Russian soldiers" in the Ogaden. True, the agency did not venture to assume responsibility for the authenticity of this assertion, mentioning that it came from "U.S. Government circles." But the malice of this anti-Soviet fabrication is not less because of this.

Officials of states supplying arms to Somalia have at the same time launched a campaign designed to limit Ethiopia's right to defend itself against unprovoked aggression. Some of them have even threatened Addis Ababa by stating that they will bring in their troops if it violates "borders recognized in the Horn of Africa."

And this despite the fact that the Ethiopian Government long ago precisely and clearly set forth its position on this issue, stating that it has no territorial claims against its neighbors and that Ethiopian troops do not intend to invade Somalia's territory after liberation of the Ogaden. This was stated unambiguously to D. Aaron, the President's deputy assistant for national security affairs, whom the White House sent to Addis Ababa recently to judge "for himself" the Ethiopian leaders' intentions.

In that case, what is the matter? The war in the Ogaden launched by Somalia, with incitement from the imperialist powers, has proved a convenient pretext for concentrating NATO arms in the Horn of Africa.

By turning Somalia into a NATO arsenal, NATO circles are evidently seeking to expand the framework of the military conflict in the Horn of Africa, dragging reactionary regimes of the Near and Middle East into it. They are leading matters to the point where, by the joint efforts of reaction and with the aid of NATO weapons, they can stifle the revolutionary regime in Ethiopia and turn the Horn of Africa into a zone of imperialist influence and a bulwark of the NATO military relying on reactionary regimes of this part of Africa. Appeals are being heard loudly in Washington now to send U.S. military advisers to Somali "to show the Somalis how to use these weapons efficiently." But this scheme for interference would be too reminiscent of Vietnam, whose specter to this day looms over the Washington administration. A "new Vietnam" is clearly not to Washington's taste. It would very much like to appear as a peacemaker without abandoning the support it gives the aggressor in terms of arms and military equipment. Allegations have appeared in the U.S. press to the effect that "Somalia does not now enjoy the support" of official Washington. At a recent briefing session Zbigniew Brzezinski, the President's assistant for national security affairs, went even further, stating that "Somalia must halt the invasion into Ethiopia and withdraw from its territory." The Department of State accompanied this diversionary maneuver with what was, to say the least, a strange statement which impudently linked the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks underway in Geneva between the Soviet Union and the United States with events in the Horn of Africa.

Seizing on this "peacemaking" idea, some U.S. press organs are demanding from the Washington administration neither more nor less than total halting of Soviet-U.S. contacts--from the dialog on the Indian Ocean to trade relations. Thus, for instance, the New York TIMES suggests that the situation in the Horn of Africa has already "worsened the chances of an armed forces limitation agreement in the Indian Ocean region and may create hostile climate for the senate's approval of a strategic arms limitation agreement, if one is concluded." Certain U.S. figures such as Senator Robert Byrd, who is insisting on the "freezing" of Soviet-U.S. relations in the most diverse spheres, have also joined in this campaign.

You might think that only Moscow was interested in such relations! They are, of course, equally necessary to Washington, and they benefit the general cause of the consolidation of peace. But the NATO countries' policy in the Horn of Africa accords least of all with the cause of peace and detente. Who will be convinced by the hypocritical attempts to present the imperialist circles in the role of peacemakers allegedly concerned only to extinguish the military conflagration there when sophisticated weapons are being sent uninterruptedly to the aggressor! Moreover, the question of creating some "strategic zone" in the Red Sea region is being examined. The imperialists are using fantasies about alleged plans for an Ethiopian attack on Somalia and the lie about socialist countries' "participation" in the military operations in the Ogaden with the sole aim of covering their tracks and casting a shadow on the Soviet Union's principled position on the question of the conflict in the Horn of Africa. And this position is well known: Peace in the Horn of Africa can be restored on condition that the aggression against independent Ethiopia is halted.

SOUTH AFRICA-ISRAEL NUCLEAR, ECONOMIC COOPERATION PROBED

LD131205Y Moscow TASS in English 1127 GMT 13 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Maputo, March 13, TASS--TASS correspondent Yuriy Bespalko reports: The South African Republic and Israel continue strengthening the racialist-Zionist alliance. As the South African radio reported, a big Israeli trade mission arrived in Johannesburg. Its head said that the volume of trade between the two countries had trebled in recent years.

Israeli Finance Minister Simha Erhlich has recently been on a visit in the South African Republic. In the course of the visit a number of long-term agreements was signed providing for a further development of ties between Tel Aviv and Pretoria. The sides devoted special attention to questions of joint use of Israel's technical possibilities and strategic raw materials and funds of the South African Republic for building up the military-economic potential of the two countries. As the newspaper RAND DAILY MAIL wrote, it is planned to increase South African investments in Israel's economy to reach 43 million rands in the next three years. Uranium ore, chromium, manganese and rare metals are lavishly supplied from the South African Republic to the Zionists. The South African "Iscor" corporation sells to Israel 40 percent of its steel, which is then used for the manufacture of military equipment. Tel Aviv and Pretoria maintain cooperation in the nuclear field. The newspaper SOUTH AFRICAN JEWISH TIMES, close to the government circles of the South African Republic, has recently unambiguously said: The abundance of the uranium raw material in the South African Republic and the high standards of training specialists and development of technology in Israel enable us to show our full strength. And in this is the most sinister aspect of the racialist-Zionist alliance spearheaded against the people fighting for freedom and social progress.

WEEK OF SOLIDARITY WITH SOUTHERN AFRICA BEGINS

LD140940Y Moscow TASS in English 0803 GMT 14 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 14 TASS--TASS commentator Nikolay Malikov writes: A week of solidarity and joint actions in support of the struggle waged by the peoples and the working people in the south of Africa against apartheid began on Monday. It is held on the initiative of the 2nd international trade union conference against apartheid which called upon the world trade union movement and the whole of progressive mankind to denounce the racists' crimes, to demand elimination of the inhuman regimes of apartheid and racial discrimination and the release of the imprisoned South African patriots, democrats and trade union activists.

As far back as in 1948 the U.N. General Assembly adopted the General Declaration of Human Rights. The document denounced racial, national and religious oppression. The defence of human rights was proclaimed to be a sacred obligation of the states. But crying violations of human rights are being perpetrated till now in the south of Africa. The racist regimes of the Republic of South Africa and Rhodesia resort to brutal terror in order to suppress any African action for national and social liberation.

A barbed wired prison--this is how the African peoples call the racist regime of the Republic of South Africa. More than 100,000 political prisoners are languishing in its jails. 2,500 of them were arrested in the past year alone. As was admitted by the commissioner for prisons of the Republic of South Africa, "the growth in the number of prisoners in South African jails exceeds the overall growth of the population." The Republic of South Africa holds a deplorable record: This country accounts for half of the death penalties in the world.

The apartheid authorities reply with bloody repressions to the Africans' demands that an end be put to the hateful system. More than 2,000 people were killed or wounded in the course of suppression of mass actions of the native population that began in June last year in Soweto.

The struggle against the hateful system of racial oppression is growing wider. Political strikes alone in the Republic of South Africa last year involved 250,000 people.

By-passing the U.N. decisions, imperialist Western states continue giving support to the racist regimes in the south of Africa, regarding them as a stronghold in the struggle against the national-liberation movements in the African Continent. They use these regimes, just as some other African countries, for their aggressive aims. These aims are furthered by a West German missile test range on Zaire's territory, which is regarded by independent Africa as a threat to the whole continent.

The Soviet Union has always been siding with the oppressed peoples, displaying solidarity with their struggle for national liberation. The Soviet Union resolutely denounces the racist policy, carried out with the support of imperialist powers by the regimes of the Republic of South Africa and Rhodesia and comes out for their isolation and boycott, for full eradication of apartheid, of all forms and manifestations of racial discrimination.

IMPERIALISM ACCUSED OF PROVOCATIONS AGAINST ANGOLA

LD140216Y Moscow in Portuguese to Portugal 1700 GMT 13 Mar 78 LD

[Excerpt] According to news agencies, the forces of imperialism have not ceased armed provocations against the People's Republic of Angola and are preparing new subversive actions against it. New bands of the puppet groups the National Front for the Liberation of Angola, the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola, and the Front for the Liberation of the Cabinda Enclave are being formed and trained in Namibia--occupied by the South African racists--and in Zaire. They are trained by specialists from NATO, the CIA and the Chilean military.

Mercenaries from Western capitals willing to take part in the bloody crimes against the populations of the border areas of Angola in exchange for the racists' and imperialists' money are preparing to come to the bandits' aid. London is their main rallying point. The recruiting of mercenaries there is tolerated by the authorities.

A new group of 200 paid murderers arrived recently in Zaire from London. By rendering assistance to the puppet bands on a colossal scale, the United States and other NATO countries are seeking to liquidate the gains of the Angolan people's revolution and the country's national independence, the newspaper JORNAL DE ANGOLA writes.

In pursuing this goal, imperialism uses Zaire and racist South Africa. From Namibian territory, South African troops shell populated centers in the Angolan Province of Mossamedes. On the northern border of the People's Republic of Angola, Zairian troops recently attacked the Angolan villages of (Mametenga) and (Calasamba) causing casualities among the peaceful population.

Between August 1977 and last February there were 40 attacks on Angola. During one of these raids a Zairian Army noncommissioned officer was captured in Angola. He and other prisoners said that there were Moroccan and (?French) advisers with the Zairian troops, who made a 25-kilometer incursion into Angola in the area of the town of (Massumbi).

ZIA-UL-HAQ, DPRK'S PAK SONG-CHOL SPEAK IN ISLAMABAD

LD112202Y Moscow TASS in English 2023 GMT 11 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Islamabad, March 11, TASS--The Korean issue should be resolved on the basis of the charter and resolutions of the United Nations organization. This has been stated by General Zia-ul-Haq, speaking at a reception in honour of KDPR Vice-President Pak Song-chol. He noted that Pakistan advocated peaceful reunification of the Korean people. The resolution on the Korean issue is aimed at preservation of durable peace and stability in that area. Zia-ul-Haq expressed the hope that the KDPR vice-president's visit to Pakistan would promote stronger friendship and mutually beneficial cooperation between the two countries, and would help ensure stability and prosperity of developing countries.

Speaking in reply, KDPR Vice-President Pak Sung-chol thanked Pakistan for the support of the Korean people in their just struggle for independence and peaceful reunification of Korea. He expressed his country's solidarity with the peoples of the Asian Continent in their struggle against imperialism and colonialism, for independence and construction of a new, prosperous Asia. The KDPR vice-president highly appreciated Pakistan's independent foreign policy which is directed against imperialism, colonialism and racism, at defending national sovereignty, consolidation of unity of Asian and African countries, development of friendly cooperation with neighbouring countries.

U.S. DEPUTY DEFENSE SECRETARY ARRIVES IN ROK

LD112103Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1530 GMT 11 Mar 78 LD

[Text] U.S. Deputy Secretary of Defense Duncan arrived in Seoul today. The purpose of his trip is to inspect the U.S.-South Korean military exercises taking place in South Korea. More than 100,000 officers and men of the U.S. Armed Forces and the Seoul Army are taking part. These major maneuvers are a provocative demonstration by Washington of its positions-of-strength policy in the Korean Peninsula. Duncan stated bluntly at Seoul airport that the present exercises underline the United States' adherence to its military obligations to South Korea.

U.S.-ROK MANEUVERS PROVOKE CRITICISM FROM DPRK

LD140925Y Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 10 Mar 78 Morning Edition p 4 LD

[Yu. Bandura article: "Whipping Up Tension"]

[Text] An intensive buildup of U.S. Armed Forces has been taking place in the last few days on the South Korean Peninsula and in its coastal waters. On 28 February, the 25th Infantry Division of the U.S. Army landed in Pusan and since 5 March military air bases in South Korea have allowed U.S. warplanes from the United States and Japan to land. Ships of the 7th Fleet are concentrated along the shores of the Korean Peninsula, including the nuclear aircraft carrier MIDWAY [as published] which has left its permanent base--the Japanese port of Yokosuka. U.S. marine landing forces are preparing to rush to the peninsula from Okinawa.

The official explanation for the concentration of U.S. Armed Forces in South Korea is the U.S.-South Korean maneuvers, "Team Spirit-78", in which more than 100,000 people will take part. With its fondness for sensation, the Japanese press does not shy from garish headlines: "Major Maneuvers on the Korean Peninsula!"; "The Largest Maneuvers in Asia Since the War in Indochina!" In essence, these maneuvers are nothing but a broad military provocation against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea [DPRK].

Shortly before his election, President J. Carter publicly promised the voters "to withdraw American troops from South Korea." But the maneuvers show that the acts of the U.S. administration do not back up its statements.

The transfer of large contingents of American forces to the Korean Peninsula encourages Seoul dictator Pak Chong-hui into armed provocation against the DPRK.

The military bases given to the Pentagon by Japan still play an important role in insuring the United States a "free hand" on the Korean Peninsula. Using American Armed Forces to "protect" its interests in South Korea, the Japanese Government gives these bases willingly.

The DPRK foreign minister has resolutely condemned the forthcoming U.S.-South Korean military maneuvers in South Korea. The DPRK Government and the Korean people, a DPRK Internal Affairs Ministry statement says, consider that such steps by the United States and South Korean puppet clique are a serious encroachment on peace and security in Korea and Asia and a challenge to the peace-loving peoples of the world. The United States, the statement points out is breaking its promise to withdraw American troops from South Korea and is opposing peace and the peaceful unification of Korea.

The DPRK Internal Affairs Ministry spokesman also stated that the Japanese ruling circles, who are allowing their territory to be used by the American military, must cease all acts which contravene the interests of Korea and Japan and the interests of peace throughout the world.

DANGERS OF JAPANESE MILITARY PRODUCTION CITED

LD131639Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 11 Mar 78 p 5 LD

[Igor Latyshev article: "A Dangerous Course"]

[Text] Tokyo--Recently, Japanese Prime Minister T. Fukuda declared in parliament for the first time that "the possession of nuclear weapons is possible" and supposedly does not contradict the country's constitution. Although Fukuda maintained that Japan will not possess these weapons, the very fact that Japan's leader made such a statement seriously alarmed the peace-loving Japanese public.

Attention is being drawn to the fact that this statement was made in an atmosphere of growing militarist tendencies among influential ruling circles in Japan. Recent appeals to increase arms production and remove the limitations on weapons exports have increased noticeably. Recently, such eminent leaders of the country's business world as Tohio Doko, president of the Japanese Federation of Economic Organizations, and Shigeo Naigano, chairman of the Japanese Trade and Industrial Chamber, publicly expressed themselves in this manner.

The familiar "experience" of the thirties, when at the height of the depression the Japanese monopolies allied with the military to create an inflationary situation in the country which brought about the "animation" of a militarist national economy, is being taken into consideration.

However, the Japanese peace-loving public also remembers the innumerable disasters which resulted from this practice. The louder the voices of the militarists, the more alarmed become the local press commentaries, forced to heed the peace-loving sentiments and longings of much of the Japanese population.

"Attempts to follow the 'commonsense' of earlier times is not only shortsighted but also dangerous," the MAINICHI newspaper writes in an editorial. The ASAHI newspaper develops the same thought, pointing out that any expansion of Japanese weapons exports to Asian countries is fraught with "the threat of a new increase in tension" in this region of the world. The newspaper recommends that the Japanese Government show prudence and not succumb to pressure from the supporters of increased military production.

Japanese democratic circles note that expanded military production under the pretext of "overcoming the economic depression" would curtail production in peaceful industries and finally lead to further deterioration in the life of the masses. In foreign policy, such a source, accompanied by public appeals to "cure the nuclear allergy," would only increase distrust of Tokyo by other states. It is fraught with the danger of involving Japan in conflicts which are unrelated to the peaceful aspirations of the Japanese peoples and the peoples of Asia and the entire world.

BULGARIA'S ZHIKOV MEETS WITH JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER

LD141058Y Moscow TASS in English 1052 GMT 14 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Tokyo, March 14, TASS--Talks were opened here between Todor Zhivkov, the chairman of the State Council of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, and Takeo Fukuda, the prime minister of Japan. They are discussing the further development of cooperation between the two countries, with emphasis on the expansion of economic, scientific and technical exchanges. An understanding was reached on the conclusion of specific agreements in these fields.

Todor Zhivkov arrived in Japan on an official six-day visit. He is accompanied by Petur Mladenov, the minister of foreign affairs of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, and other officials.

SOCIALIST PARTY OF JAPAN OPENS CONGRESS

LD140920Y Moscow TASS in English 0903 GMT 14 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Tokyo, March 14, TASS--A congress of the Socialist Party of Japan opened here today. The delegates will discuss the tasks facing the party and will adopt the programme of activities for 1978. The congress' work centers on questions of economic policy, expansion of membership of the Socialist Party of Japan, problems of the working class and youth movement.

U.S. SUBMARINE'S PRESENCE IN JAPANESE PORT PROTESTED

LD100932Y Moscow TASS in English 0822 GMT 10 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Tokyo, March 10, TASS--The American atomic submarine Pogy this morning left the Japanese port of Yokosuka where a base of the U.S. Seventh Fleet is located. The submarine stayed there since March 5.

Local residents and the democratic public of Japan resolutely protest against frequent entries of American aircraft carriers and atomic submarines to Yokosuka, which has been turned by the Pentagon into one of the biggest strong points of its navy in the Far East. The peace-loving forces of the country demand the dismantling of the U.S. bases on Japan's territory and abrogation of the Japanese-American security treaty.

BREZHNEV CONGRATULATES UFA PLANT CONSTRUCTION WORKERS

LD131617Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 10 March p 1 LD

[Text] To the construction and assembly workers, operators, machine builders, designers and all those who participated in constructing the complex for the production of phenol and acetone at the Order of the Labor Red Banner Ufa 40-Letiya Komsomol synthetic alcohol plant:

Dear comrades:

I greet you cordially on the occasion of the excellent labor achievement--the successful completion of the construction of one of the country's biggest complexes for the production of phenol and acetone. Thanks to the efficient organization of the construction process, the high labor discipline and the active and purposeful work of party, trade union and Komsomol organizations, the large technical workshops, equipped with modern, highly productive Soviet equipment, have been built in difficult conditions and in a short time.

The commissioning of the complex is a valuable contribution toward solving the tasks set by the 25th party congress. Production from this complex will make it possible to considerably increase the production of chemical substances for protecting plants, synthetic resins, plastics and other products of organic synthesis.

I am convinced that your experience in organizing the construction and assembly plant will be widely applied at all construction sites in Bashkiriya and will contribute toward the successful fulfillment of tasks set by the party in the sphere of capital buildings.

I wish you new labor success, good health and personal happiness. [signed] L. Brezhnev.

SHCHERBITSKIY ADDRESSES UKRAINIAN KOMSOMOL CONGRESS

LD140944Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0900 GMT 14 Mar 78 LD

[Text] A Ukrainian Komsomol congress opened today in Kiev. Its delegates represent 6.3 million Komsomol members in the republic. Comrade Shcherbitskiy, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Central Committee of the Ukrainian Communist Party, who was warmly welcomed by those present, delivered a speech at the congress. He gave a high evaluation of the contribution by Komsomol members in the republic in all spheres of economic, social and cultural construction.

LITHUANIAN SSR EXAMINES DRAFT REPUBLIC CONSTITUTION

LD140554Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0205 GMT 14 Mar 78 LD

[Text] A session of the Constitutional Commission of the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet has been held in Vilnius. The commission, headed by Petras Petrovich Grishkyavichyus, first secretary of the Lithuanian Communist Party Central Committee, examined and in the main approved the draft constitution of the Lithuanian SSR. A decision to submit a proposal to the republican Supreme Soviet Presidium to publish the draft constitution for discussion by the people was adopted.

AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS

PRAVDA NOTES CSA FIGURES ON PREPARING FARM MACHINERY

LD140844Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0200 GMT 14 Mar 78 LD

[From the central press review]

[Text] PRAVDA presents the Central Statistical Administration [CSA] figures on readiness of machinery for spring fieldwork. Thus, by 1 March, more than 2 million tractors were repaired in the country, or 88 percent. However, repair of some vehicles is lagging behind the overall pace. A thousand powerful Kirovets tractors have still not been repaired on farms of the RSFSR and Kazakhstan. In the Central Asian republics, only about 78 percent of all pump (?power) units have been repaired, even though these farms need moisture most of all. The quality of seed on the country's sovkhozes and kolkhozes is much better than last year. Moldavian, Ukrainian and Belorussian grain farmers have excellent seeds for spring cereals, but in a number of oblasts of the RSFSR and other republics there are still quite a lot of poor quality seeds.

RADIO REPORTS AGRICULTURAL PROGRESS FOR 13 MAR

LD140336 [Editorial Report LD] Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 0100 on 13 March reports that warm weather has begun in Tadzhikistan and that fieldwork has begun in the north and south. Grain and fodder crops are being sown, as are some early vegetables. Cotton sowing will begin soon. Cotton is expected to occupy more than 280,000 hectares of land.

At 0500 GMT, the radio notes that fieldwork is in progress throughout Odesskaya Oblast.

At 1100 GMT, the radio reports that 2,000 mechanized sowing complexes are being set up in Altayskiy Kray to cultivate grain and other crops.

PRAVDA VIEWS PROBLEMS RELATING TO START OF SPRING SOWING

LD140835Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 11 Mar 78 p 1 LD

[Editorial: "Before Going Out Into the Fields"]

[Text] Warm winds have begun wafting over the expanses of our motherland. Spring is coming into its own. In many southern regions machine operators have already taken sowing units out into the fields. Thousands of hectares of arable land have been seeded for spring crops. Each passing day brings closer the start of sowing on a mass scale. The farmers are putting all their effort into being fully ready to meet the period of intensive spring work.

Seeking to successfully implement the decisions of the 25th CPSU Congress, the rural workers have mapped out high targets in the third year of the 5-year plan. In response to the CPSU Central Committee, USSR Council of Ministers, AUCCTU and Komsomol Central Committee letter, they have mounted socialist competition on a wide scale for increasing the output of produce, making efficient use of equipment and raising harvest yields. As before, grain farming remains a shock-work sector which demands special concern. This year, kolkhozes and sovkhozes are to obtain at least 220 million tons of grain and increase the harvests of sugar beet, cotton, sunflower, vegetables and other crops.

As in past years, the country is giving the farmers substantial assistance on the eve of sowing. The CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers recently adopted a resolution "On Additional Measures for Preparing for and Carrying Out Spring Field Work in 1978." This document outlines a system of measures aimed at providing uninterrupted material and technical backup for the kolkhozes and sovkhozes, rational organization of production and intensification of incentives for rural field workers. All this will make it possible to complete sowing work within the best agrotechnical deadlines and to a high standard and lay a reliable foundation for the harvest.

Success is determined primarily by the cadres, good preparation and skillful deployment of the workforce. Just recently, the ranks of rural machine operators have been augmented appreciably. Specialists have taken charge of many links, teams and sections. Making wide use of the experience of Rostovskaya Oblast workers, universal training for machine operators has been organized on the majority of farms. Hundreds of thousands of tractor drivers, combine operations and drivers have increased their skills on special courses. However, in a number of places the cadre situation leaves something to be desired. For instance, the training of machine operators and the staffing of teams for sowing units have been delayed in certain rayons in Lipetskaya and Nikolayevskaya oblasts. At the moment there is still time to make up for these omissions, and party, soviet and economic organs are called upon to take pains to insure that skilled hands operate the equipment on each kolkhoz and sovkhoz, and that this equipment is used at full capacity.

In the majority of the country's regions a reliable stock of good seed has been created. This seed has been prepared in good time by rural workers of the Mariyskaya ASSR and Belgorodskaya, Voronezhskaya, Krymskaya and other oblasts. But laggardliness has been allowed to occur here and there. Thus, in Kurskaya Oblast, only 28 farms of some 509 have seeds that conform with class 1 standards, while the quality of the seed in Ulyanovskaya Oblast is too low. Resolute and rapid steps are needed to rectify the situation. It is a question of completing exchange operations and the careful additional grain preparation so that all the farms may have good-quality material at their disposal in the immediate future.

Machinery and tractor pool repair work is an equally important element in preparations for the strenuous field work. The rate of this repair work is considerably higher in many oblasts than it was last spring. The majority of units have already been put in order. However, even in southern regions there are farms where equipment repair is being delayed. Sowing has already begun in Turkmenia, but in Kirovskiy and Takhta-Bazarskiy rayons, for instance, machinery repair has dragged on. One of the reasons for this laggardliness is the shortage of spare parts. PRAVDA is receiving warnings that certain industrial enterprises are failing to fulfill the parts delivery schedule. The Odessapochvomash production association is slow in dispatching moldboards and plowshares. The Belinskselmash plant, Penzenskaya Oblast, the Zavolskiymotor plant, Gorskaya Oblast and certain other enterprises, have not fulfilled orders from the farmers; this requires immediate intervention by the relevant ministries and local party committees.

The prompt delivery of fuels and lubricants to the countryside is a subject for special concern, as is the creation of a reliable stock of these materials and their careful storage and thrifty expenditure. The CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers have ordered economic organs to take all steps to fully supply the kolkhozes and sovkhozes with fuel. Petroleum products sales organizations and transportation workers are to accelerate the dispatch of fuel primarily to the regions where sowing is beginning. Therefore the incomplete delivery of tankers and the fact that the dispatch of petroleum products to a number of oblasts of the Ukraine, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan is developing too slowly, is giving cause for alarm. The supply and transportation unit party organizations that have now taken the fulfillment of the countryside's orders and the delivery of loads connected with the sowing work under their unremitting control are acting correctly.

The country's farmers have actively joined the socialist competition for highest possible labor productivity. The solution of this task is connected primarily with introducing progressive methods of fieldwork, concentrating equipment and its skillful servicing, and organizing two-shift work by machine operators. In progressive regions it is planned to make wide use of the Ipatovskiy method in spring sowing. Farm managers and party committees are called upon to more actively support innovators and create conditions for the use of valuable experience that has been verified in practice.

The period of intensive spring work is a serious test of the militancy of rural communists. The main thing for them now is to take the formation of sowing units and the preparation of seed and equipment under their unremitting control, as well as organize socialist competition. It is necessary to arrange matters in such a way that state aid produces the maximum return; at the same time, it is also necessary to use party persistence to mobilize the farms' internal reserves and impart effective force to socialist competition. The workforce and its working conditions, daily life and relaxation must be at the focus of party organizations' attention. It is also necessary to give advance thought to those who are to assist the grain growers from industrial enterprises, organizations and institutions.

The farmers have little time left before they go out into the fields. The patriotic desire to honorably fulfill the plans and pledges of the third year of the 5-year plan is inspiring them to new labor achievements, to implementing the spring sowing in exemplary fashion and to laying a firm foundation for the next harvest.

SOYUZ-27 COSMONAUTS CONTINUE PROGRAM OF EXPERIMENTS

LD131246Y Moscow TASS in English 1226 GMT 13 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Mission Control Centre, March 13, TASS--The Soviet Cosmonauts Yuriy Romanenko and Georgiy Grechko are in the 94th day of their mission in near-terrestrial space.

In accordance with the flight programme the crew has started operations to conserve the on-board systems of the Salyut-6 station, as well as of the scientific equipment and instruments that they will no longer use.

Today the cosmonauts are engaged in technical servicing of the station and the Soyuz-27 ship, and in physical exercises using the comprehensive training unit. The Chibis (lapwing) pressurised suit is used in the training sessions.

A new experiment was carried out to determine the influence of outer space on the optical properties of the portholes. The cosmonauts photographed the portholes for subsequent analysis and consideration for distortions arising in the course of flight.

According to reports of the crew and telemetric data the on-board systems of the Salyut-6-Soyuz-27 space complex are functioning normally. The parameters of the micro climate inside the station are as follows: temperature--plus 22 degrees centigrade; pressure--780 millimetres of the mercury column; the cosmonauts feel well.

Report on Day 95 Activities

LD140622Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0500 GMT 14 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Cosmonauts Yuriy Romanenko and Georgiy Grechko are continuing the orbital flight on board the Salyut-6-Soyuz-27 research complex. They have already completed the greater part of the planned program of research and experiments.

Today is the crew's 95th day of work in space. Romanenko and Grechko are carrying out planned tasks in mothballing the onboard system of the Salyut-6 station. In the course of the day, rest hours and obligatory exercises on the integrated trainer are planned for the crew.

According to medical data, the cosmonauts' health is good.

SIDORENKO IN TRUD ON SPACE MISSION BENEFITS FOR MANKIND

LD101358Y Moscow TASS in English 1318 GMT 10 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 10, TASS--Cooperation under the Intercosmos program has its emphasis, to an ever increasing extent, on the applied character of research, Aleksandr Sidorenko, vice president of the USSR Academy of Sciences, writes in the newspaper TRUD. The exploration of outer space is becoming a component part of the national economic plans of the socialist countries.

Orbita stations of a T.V. transmission system via earth satellites are operating in Mongolia, Cuba, and Czechoslovakia. In a number of socialist countries, work is under way to further improve communications systems involving the use of artificial earth satellites. A methodology has been developed for using data supplied by weather satellites in the current weather service, which has helped enhance the accuracy of weather forecasts.

Aleksandr Sidorenko says that Soviet and Czechoslovak specialists have prepared a technological experiment named Morava for staging it aboard the orbital station Salyut-6. In this experiment the aim of the experiment is to study the processes of growing super-pure crystals in the conditions of weightlessness and to appreciate prospects of space technology for obtaining complex semiconductor and optic materials.

No doubt, international cooperation in space exploration will be put on a broader basis as time goes on, the article says. As a matter of fact, any of the nearest major problems of space research will require a generalization of experience and scientific and engineering development efforts by different countries. In this context the scientist mentions the study of sun-earth relationships, creation of a global system for obtaining and transmitting information on the earth, natural processes on earth and earth resources with the use of space facilities.

Observations aboard the satellites will also help solve such major problems, ones of great importance for mankind, as the making of maps of sea currents, study of troubled seas, finding most promising fishing areas, making of forest maps as well as soil and geobotanical maps, appreciation of crops and their maturity, study of the dynamics of snow and ice covers and soil erosion processes.

Geology is also acquiring a new quality thanks to the use of space methods. This refers specifically to the study of regularities in the structure of the earth's interior and the study of geological structures which cannot be found out by conventional ground methods, Aleksandr Sidorenko writes. All this is eventually needed for an effective search of minerals. Observations from outer space make it possible already today to solve the problems of environmental protection at a high level than before.

BRIEFS

ACADEMY OF SCIENCES ELECTION--Moscow, March 2 TASS--Academician Yevgeniy Velikhov was elected vice-president of the USSR Academy of Sciences. The 43-year-old scientist conducts research in plasma physics and is also a recognized authority in thermonuclear synthesis. President of the USSR Academy of Sciences Anatoliy Aleksandrov has announced the decision by the academy presidium to award the Lomonosov Gold Medal to Soviet Academician Mikhail Lavrentev and American scientists Linus Pauling. The president read Linus Pauling's telegram expressing the scientist's deep gratitude to the Soviet academy for their high estimation of his work. [Moscow TASS in English 1733 GMT 2 Mar 78 LD]

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM ENDS--Leningrad, March 4, TASS--Leningrad geophysicists today concluded a series of flights over an area in excess of 150,000 square kilometers in the Pacific on board a plane equipped with a system of distance control over temperature, forces of waves, height of waves and other characteristics of the water regime according to short wave thermal emissions. Automatic equipment installed onboard an artificial earth satellite of the Meteor series recorded the state of this area of the Pacific at the same time. This work constitutes the second stage of the new Soviet-American scientific programme "Short Wave Experiment" that was started a year ago, V. Stepanenko, the superviser of the Soviet part of the program, the deputy director of the main geophysical observatory named after Voyeykov, told a TASS correspondent. According to mutual agreement, Soviet scientists chose the Pacific for their observations, while American scientists chose the northwestern Atlantic. In the summer and autumn, the Leningrad geophysicists will make two more series of flights over the ocean. [Text] [Moscow TASS in English 2215 GMT 4 Mar 78 LD]

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